

Sighs from Hell :

OR, THE
G R O A N S
O F A

Damned S O U L.

Discovering from the 16th of LUKE,
the Lamentable Estate of the
Damned.

And may fitly serve as a Warning
Word to SINNERS, both Old and
Young, by Faith in JESUS CHRIST,
to avoid the same Place of Torment

With a Discovery of the Usefulness
of the SCRIPTURES, as our safe
Conduct for avoiding the Torments
of HELL.

The Fifteenth Edition.

By *John Bunyan*.

B O S T O N, Printed by S. Kneeland
and T. Green, for D. Henchman, at
the old Brick Meeting-House,
Hanchick at the Bible and Tavern
signs in Ann-Street. 1731.

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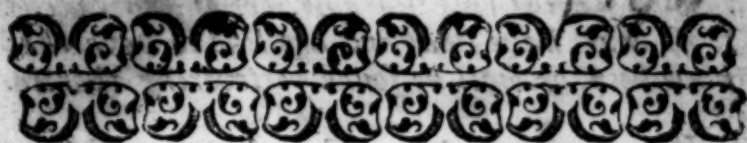
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THE
AUTHOR
TO THE
READER.



RIEND, because it is a dangerous
Thing to be walking towards the
Place of Darkneſs and Anguiſh:
And again, becauſe it is (not-
withſtanding) the Journey that
moſt of the poor Souls in the
World are taking, and that with Delight and
Gladneſs, as if there was the only Happineſs to
be found: I have therefore thought it my Duty
(being made ſenſible of the Danger that will
beſal thoſe that fall therein) for the preventing

To the READER.

of thee, (O thou poor Man or Woman !) to tell thee by opening this Parable, what sad Success those Souls have had, and are like to have, that have been, or shall be found persevering therein.

We use to count him a Friend that will forewarn his Neighbour of the Danger, when he knoweth thereof, and doth also see that the Way his Neighbour is walking in, doth lead right thereto, especially when we think that our Neighbour may be either Ignorant or Careless of his Way. Why, Friend, it may be, nay, twenty to one, but thou hast been ever since thou didst come into the World, with thy Back towards Heaven, and thy Face towards Hell; and thou either through Ignorance (or Carelessness, which is as bad, if not worse) hast been running full hastily that Way ever since. Why, I beseech thee, put a little Stop to thy earnest Race, and take a View of that Entertainrment thou art like to have, if thou do in Deed and in Truth persist in this thy wicked Course. Thy Way leads down to Death, and thy Stepstake hold on Hell, Prov. 5. 5. It may be the Path indeed is pleasant to the Flesh, but the End thereof will be bitter to thy Soul. Hark, dost thou not hear the bitter Cries of them that are but newly gone before ? Saying, Let him dip the Tip of his Finger in Water, & cool my Tongue, that is so tormented in the Flame, Luke 16. Dost thou not hear them say, Send one from the Dead, to prevent my Father, my Brother, and my Father's House from coming into this Place of Torment ? Shall not then these mournful Groans pierce thy flinty Heart ? Wilt thou stop thine Ears, & shut thine



Eyes ?

To the READER.

Eyes? And wilt thou not regard? Take warning and stop thy Journey before it be too late? Wilt thou like the small Fly, that is not quiet unless she be either entangled in the Spider's Web, or burned in the Candle? Wilt thou be like the Bird that hastneth to the Snare of the Fowler? Wilt thou be like that simple one named in the seventh of Proverbs, that will be drawn to the Slaughter by the Cord of a silly Lust? O Sinner, Sinner, there are better Things than Hell to be had, and at a cheaper Rate by the thousand Part than that! O (there is no comparison) there is Heaven, there is God, there is Christ, there is Communion with an innumerable Company of Saints & Angels. Hear the Messenger that God doth send, that Christ doth send, the Saints do bring, nay that the Dead send unto thee: I pray thee therefore that thou would'st send him to my Father's House; if one went to them from the Dead they would repent. How long ye simple Ones, will ye love Simplicity? And ye Scorners delight in scorning? And ye Fools hate Knowledge? Turn ye at my Reproof, and behold, saith God, I will pour out my Spirit upon you, I will make known my Words unto you. I say, hear this Voice, O silly One, and turn and live, thou sinful Soul, lest he make thee hear that other saying; But, because I have called, and you have refused, I have stretched out my Hand, and no Man regarded, I also will laugh at your Calamity, and mock when your Fear cometh.

O poor Soul, if God and Christ did wish thee
for thine Harm, it would be another Matter:

• To the READER.

Then if thou didst refuse, thou mightest have some Excuse for to make, or Fault to find, or ground to make Delays. But this is for thy Profit, and thy Advantage, for the pardoning of thy Sins, the Salvation of thy Soul, the delivering thee from Hell-fire, from the Wrath to come, from everlasting Burnings, into Favour with God, Christ, and Communion with all Happiness (that is so indeed.)

But it may be thou wilt say, All that hath been spoken to in this Discourse, is but a Parable, and Parables are no Realities.

I could put thee off with this Answer, that tho' it be a Parable, yet it is a Truth and not a Lie; and thou shalt find it so too, to thy Cost, if thou shalt be found a Slighter of God, Christ, and the Salvation of thy own Soul.

But secondly, know for certain that the Things signified by Parables, are wonderful Realities. O what a glorious Reality was there signified by that Parable! The Kingdom of Heaven is like a Net that is cast into the Sea, &c. signifying, That Sinners of all Sorts, of all Nations, should be brought into God's Kingdom, by the Net of the Gospel. And, O how real a Thing shall the other Part thereof be, when 'tis fulfilled, which saith, And when it was full he drew it to the Shore, and put the Good into the Vessels, but threw the Bad away. Mat. 13. 47, 48. signifying the Mansions of Glory that the Saints should have, and also the Rejection that God will give to the Ungodly, and to Sinners.

To the READER.

ners. And also that Parable, what a glorious Reality there is in it? Which saith, Except a Corn of Wheat fall to the Ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it doth bring forth much Fruit, John 12. 24. To signifie, that unless Jesus Christ did intend to spill his Blood, and die the cursed Death, he should abide alone; that is, have never a Soul in Glory with him; but if he died, he should bring forth much Fruit; that is, save many Sinners. And also how real a Truth there was in that Parable, concerning the Jews putting Christ to Death, which the poor dispersed Jews can best Experience to their Cost; for they have been almost ever since a banished People, and such as have had God's sore Displeasure wonderfully manifested against them, according to the Truth of the Parable, Mat. 21. ver. 25, to 41. O therefore, for Jesus Christ's sake, do not slight the Truth, because it is discovered in a Parable! For by this Argument thou mayest also, nay thou wilt slight almost all the Things that our Lord Jesus Christ did speak; for he spake to them for the most part (if not all) in Parables. Why should it be said of thee, as it is said of some? These Things are spoken to them that are without, in Parables, that seeing they might not see; and that hearing, they might not understand, Luke 8. 10. I say take heed of being a Quarreller against Christ's Parables; lest Christ also object against the Salvation of thy Soul at the Judgment-Day.

Friend, I have no more to say to thee now; if thou dost love me, pray for me, that my God would not forsake me, nor take his Holy Spirit from

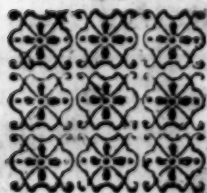
TO the READER.

from me, and that God would fit me to do and suffer what shall be from the World or Devil inflicted upon me. I must tell thee, the World rages, they stamp and shake their Heads, and say they would be doing ; the Lord help me to take all they shall do with Patience ; and when they smite the one Cheek, to turn the other to them, that I may do as Christ hath bidden me ; for then the Spirit of God, and of Glory, shall rest upon me. Farewel ;

I am thine, to serve

in the Lord Jesus ;

John Bunyan.





Sighs from Hell:
Or, The Groans of a Damned
Soul.

Luke XVI. 19, &c.

19. **T**HERE was a certain Rich Man which was cloathed in Purple and fine Linnen; and fared sumptuously every Day.

20. And there was a certain Beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his Gate full of Sores,

21. And desired to be fed with the Crumbs which fell from the Rich Man's Table; moreover, the Dogs came and licked his Sores.

22. And it came to pass that the Beggar died, and was carried by the Angels into Abraham's Bosom: The Rich Man also died and was buried:

23. And in Hell he lift up his Eyes, being in Torments, and seeth Abraham as far off, and Lazarus in his Bosom;

24. And he cried, and said, Father Abraham, have Mercy upon me; and send Lazarus that he may dip the Tip of his Finger in Water and cool my Tongue, for I am tormented in this Flame.

25. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy life time receivedst thy good Things, and likewise Lazarus evil Things; but now he is Comforted, and thou art Tormented.

26. And

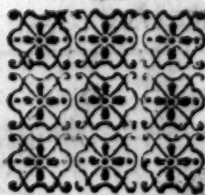
To the READER.

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Sighs from Hell: *Or, The Groans of a Damned Soul.*

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26. And

Sighs from Hell : Or,

26. *And besides all this, between us and you, there is a great Gulf fixed, so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot ; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.*

27. *Then he said, I pray thee therefore, Father, that thou wouldest send him to my Father's House.*

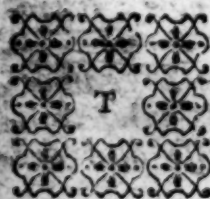
28. *For I have five Brethren, that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this Place of Torment.*

29. *Abraham saith unto him, they have Moses and the Prophets, let them hear them.*

30. *And he said, Nay, Father Abraham, but if one went to them from the Dead, they will repent.*

31. *And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the Dead.*

Verse 19.



T HIS Scripture was not spoken by our Lord JESUS CHRIST, to shew you the State of two single Persons only (as some through the Ignorance of the Drift of Christ in his Parables, do dream) but to shew you the State of the Godly and Ungodly to the World's-end ; as is clear to him that is of an understanding Heart: For he spake to them to the End, that After-generations should take Notice thereof, and Fear, lest they also fall into the same Condition.

Now in my Discourse upon these Words, I shall not be tedious, but as briefly as I may, I shall pass thro' the several Verses, and lay down some of the Truths contained therein.



and

and the Lord grant that they may be Profitable, and of great Advantage to those that read them, or hear them read.

The 19 and 20 Verses also, I shall not spend much Time upon, only give you three or four short Hints and so pass to the next Verses ; for they are the Words I do intend most especially to insist upon.

The 19, 20, and 21 Verses run thus ; *There was a certain Rich Man which was cloathed in Purple and fine Linnen, and fared deliciously or sumptuously every Day. And there was a certain Beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his Gate full of Sores, &c.*

1. If these Verses had been spoken by Jesus Christ and no more, all the World would have gone near to cast a wrong Interpretation on them : I say, if Jesus had only said thus much, *There was a certain Rich Man which fared sumptuously daily, and a certain Beggar laid at his Gate full of Sores.* The World would have made this Conclusion to them ; The Rich Man was the happy Man : for at the first View, it doth represent such a Thing ; but take all together, (that is) read the whole Parable, and you shall find, that there is no Man in a worse Condition than he ; as I shall clearly hold forth afterward.

2. Again, if a Man would judge of Men according to outward Appearance, he shall oftentimes take his Mark amiss. Here is a Man to outward Appearance ; appears the only blessed Man, better by-half than the Beggar, in as much as he is rich, the Beggar poor ; he is well cloathed, but peradventure the Beggar is naked ; he hath good Food, but the Beggar would

would be glad of Dogs Meat ; (*and he desired to be fed with the Crumbs that fell from the Rich Man's Table :*) the rich Man fares well every Day, but the Beggar must be glad of a Bit when he can get it. O ! who would not be in a Rich Man's State ? A wealthy Man, sorts of new Suits, and dainty Dishes every Day ; enough to make one who minds nothing but his Belly, and his Back, and his Lusts, to say ; O that I were in that Man's Condition ! Oh, that I had about me as that Man has ! Then I should live a Life indeed ; then should I have Hearts-ease, good Store ; then I should live pleasantly, and might say to my Soul, *Soul, be of good cheer, eat, drink and be merry, Luke 12. 15.* thou hast every Thing plenty, and art in a most blessed Condition.

I say, this might be, nay, and in a Conclusion with them that judge according to outward Appearance. But if the whole Parable be well considered you will see, *Luke 26. 15.* *That which is had in high Estimation with Men, is an Abomination in the Sight of God.* And again, *Job 16. 20, 21, 22.* *That Condition that is the saddest Condition, according to outward Appearance, is oft-times the most excellent ;* for the Beggar hath ten thousand Degrees the best of it, though to outward Appearance his State was the saddest ; from whence I shall observe thus much :

1. That those who judge according to outward Appearance, do for the most part judge amiss, *John 7. 42.*

2. That they that look upon their outward Enjoyments to be Tokens of God's special Grace unto them, are also deceived, *Rev. 3. 17.* For

The Groans of a Damned Soul.

Is it is here in the Parable, a Man of Wealth, and a Child of the Devil may make but one Per- every on; or a Man may have abundance of outward when enjoyments, and yet be carried by the Devils in- e into eternal Burning, Luke 12. 10. But this is rts of the Trap in which the Devil hath caught ma- ; by Thousands of poor Souls, namely by get- ut his ing them to judge according to outward Ap- ; Appearance, or according to God's outward Blessing. , that Do but ask a poor carnal covetous Wretch, hen I how we should know a Man to be in a happy have state; and he will answer, Those that God plea- Blesseth, and giveth Abundance of this World be of unto; when for the most Part they are they 12. 15. that are the cursed Men. Alas, poor Men! most they are so Ignorant as to think, that because a Man is increased in outward Things, and that nclu- by a small Stock, therefore God doth love that out- Man with a special Love, or else he would ne- rable ver do so much for him, never bless him so, and 6. 15. prosper the Work of his Hands. Ah, poor Soul! with it is the Rich Man that goes to Hell. And the And Rich Man died, and in Hell; Mark, in Hell he hat is lift up his Eyes, &c.

It methinks, to see how the great Ones of the World will go strutting up and down the Streets, sometimes it makes me wonder. Surely they look upon themselves to be the only happy Men; but it is because they judge according to outward Appearance; they look upon them- selves to be the only blessed Men, when the Lord knows the Generality are left out of that blessed Condition. Not many wise Men after not Flesh, not many Mighty, not many Noble are hated, 1 Cor. 1. 26. Ah! did they that now know, that no Body dare scarce look upon them

but believe this, it would make them hang down
their Heads, and cry, O give me a *Lazarus's*
Portion.

I might here enlarge very much, but I shall
not, only thus much I shall say to you that have
much of this World. Have a Care that you
have not your Portion in this World; take heed
that it be not said to you hereafter, when you
would very willingly have Heaven; Remember
in your [Life-time you had your good Things, in
your Life-time you had your Portion, *Psal. 17. 14.*

And Friend, thou that seekest after this
World, and desirest Riches, let me ask this
Question, wouldest thou be content that God
should put thee off with a *Portion* in this *Life*?
Wouldest thou be glad to be kept out of Hea-
ven with a Back well cloathed, and a Belly
well filled with the Dainties of this World?
Wouldest thou be glad to have all thy good
Things in thy Life-time, to have thy Heaven to
last no longer than while thou dost live in this
World? Wouldest thou be willing to be de-
prived of eternal Happiness and Felicity? If
thou say no, then have a Care of the World
and thy Sins; have a Care of desiring to be a
Rich Man, *lest thy Table be made a Snare to thee,*
Psal. 69. 22. lest the Wealth of this World do
bar thee out of Glory. For, as the Apostle
saith, *They that will be rich, do fall into Temp-*
tation, and a Snare, and into many foolish and
hurtful Lusts, which draw Men into Perdition and
Destruction, 1 Tim. 6. 9. Thus much in general;
but now particularly.

These two Men here spoken of (as I said)
do hold forth to us the State of the Godly
Ungodly; the Beggar holdeth forth the

The Groans of a Damned Soul.

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downy, and the Rich Man the Ungodly. *There was a certain Rich Man &c.*

I shall have the Notion of a Rich Man.

1. Because Christ would not have them look too high, as I said before, but that those who have Riches would have a care that they be not all their Portion, *Jam. 1. 10. 11, 12. 1 Tim 6. 17.*

2. Because Rich Men are most liable to the Devil's Temptations; are most ready to be puffed up with Pride, Stoutness, Cares of this World, in which Things they spend most of their Time; in Lusts, Drunkenness, Wantonness, Idleness, together with other Works of the Flesh; *For which Things sake the Wrath of God cometh upon the Children of Disobedience. Col. 3. 6.*

3. Because he would comfort the Hearts of his own, which are most commonly of the poorer Sort: *But God hath chosen the Poor, despised, and base Things of this World, 1 Cor. 1. 27.* Should God have set the Rich Man in the blessed State, his Children would have concluded, being poor, that they had no share in the Life to come.

And again, had not God given such a Discovery of the sad Condition of those that are for the most Part rich Men, we should have had Men concluded absolutely that the Rich are the blessed Men. Nay, albeit the Lord himself doth so evidently declare, that the Rich ones of the World are for the most Part in the saddest Condition, yet they thro' Unbelief, or Presumption, do harden themselves, and seek for the Glory of this World, as tho' the Lord Jesus Christ did not mean as he said, or else he will say no more than shall assuredly come to pass: But let them know, that the Lord had a Time to fulfil, that

he had a Time to declare, for the Scripture cannot be broken, *John 10. 35.*

But again, the Lord by his Word doth not mean those are Ungodly who are Rich in the World, and no other ; for then must all those that are Poor, yet graceless and vain Men be saved, and deliver'd from eternal Vengeance ; which would be contrary to the Word of God, which saith, *That together with the Kings of the Earth, & the great Men, and the chief Captains, and the mighty Men ; there are Bondmen or Servants and Slaves, that cry out at the Appearance of the Almighty God, and his Son Jesus Christ to Judgment, Rev. 6. 15.*

So that tho' Christ doth say, *There was a certain Rich Man*, yet you must understand, he meaneth all the Ungodly, Rich or Poor. Nay, if you will not understand it so now, you shall be made to understand it to be so meant at the Day of Christ's second coming, when all that are Ungodly shall stand at the left hand of Christ with pale Faces, and guilty Consciences, with the Viols of the Almighty's Wrath ready to be poured out upon them. Thus much in brief touching the 19th Verse, I might have observed other Things from it, but now I forbear, having other Things to speak of at this Time.

Verse 20. *And there was a certain Beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his Gate full of Sores.*

THIS Verse doth chiefly hold forth these Things.

1. That the Saints of God are a poor contemptible People : *There was a certain Beggar.* If you understand the Word *Beggar*, to hold forth outward Poverty, or Scarcity in outward Things,

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The Groans of a Damned Soul.

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such are the Saints of the Lord, for they are for the most part a poor, despised, contemptible People. But if you allegorize it, and interpret thus, They are such as be earnestly for heavenly Food; this is also the Spirit of the Children of God, and it may be, and is a Truth in this sense, tho' not so naturally gathered from this Scripture.

2. *That he was laid at his Gate full of Sores.* These Words hold forth the Distempers of Believers, saying, *He was full of Sores*; which may signify the many Troubles, Temptations, Persecutions, and Afflictions in Body & Spirit which they meet withal while they are in the World, and also the Entertainments they meet with at the Hands of those ungodly Ones who live upon the Earth. Whereas it is said, *He was laid at his Gate full of Sores*: Mark, *He was laid at his Gate*, not in his House, that was thought too good for him. *But he was laid at his Gate full of Sores.* From whence observe, That the ungodly World do not desire to entertain and receive poor Saints of God in their Houses. If they must needs be somewhere near unto them, yet they shall not come into their Houses, but shut them out of Doors; if they will needs be near us, let them be at the Gate. *And he was laid at the Gate full of Sores.* 2. Observe that the World are not at all touched with the Afflictions of God's Children, for they are all full of Sores: a despised, afflicted, tempted, persecuted People; the World doth not pity, no, but rather labour to aggravate their Trouble, by shutting them out of Doors; sink or swim, what cares the World, they are resolved to disown them, they will give them no Entertainment; if the lying in the Streets will do them any
B 3 good;

good ; if to be disowned, rejected, and shut out of Doors by the World will do them any good, they shall have enough of that ; otherwise no Refreshment, no Comfort from the World. *And he was laid at his Gate full of Sores.*

Verse 21. *And he desired to be fed with the Crumbs which fell from the Rich Man's Table : The Dogs came also and licked his Sores.*

BY these Words, our Lord Jesus doth shew the Frame of a Christian's Heart, and also the Heart and Carriage of Worldly Men towards the Saints of the Lord. The Christian's Heart is held forth by this, that any Thing will content him while he is on this side Glory. *And he desired to be fed with Crumbs, the Dog's Meat, any Thing.* I say, a Christian will be content with any Thing, if he have but to keep Life and Soul together (as we use to say) he is content, he is satisfied ; he hath learned, if he hath learned to be a Christian, to be content with any Thing ; as *Paul* saith, *I have learned in whatever State I am, therewith to be content.*

He learns in all Conditions to study to love God, to walk with God, to give up himself to God ; and if the Crumbs that fall from the Rich Man's Table will but satisfy Nature, and give him but bodily Strength, that thereby he may be the more able to walk in the Way of God, he is contented. *And he desired to be fed with the Crumbs that fell from the Rich Man's Table.* But mark, he had them not, you do not find he had so much as a Crumb or a Scrip allow'd unto him. No, then the Dogs will be beguil'd, that must be preserv'd for the Dogs. From whence observe, that the ungodly World do love their

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Dogs better than the Children of God. You will say, that's strange. It is so indeed, yet it is true, as will be clearly manifested ; as for Instance, how many Pounds do some Men spend a Year on their Dogs, when in the mean while the poor Saints of God may starve for Hunger ? They will build Houses for their Dogs, when the Saints must be glad to wander and lodge in Dens & Caves of the Earth, *Heb. 11. 38.* And if they be in any of their Houses for the hire thereof, they will warn them out or reject them, or pull down the House over their Heads, rather than not rid themselves of such Tenants. Again, some Men cannot go half a Mile from Home, but they must have Dogs at their Heels ; but they can very willingly go half a Score Miles without the Society of a Christian. Nay ; if when they are busie with their Dogs, they should chance to meet with a Christian, they would willingly shift him if they could. They go on the other side the Hedge or the Way, rather than they will have any Society with him ; and if at any time a Child of God should come into a House where there are but two or three ungodly Wretches, they do commonly wish either themselves or the Saints out of Doors ; and why so ; because they cannot down with the Society of a *Christian* ; tho' if there come in at the same Time a Dog, or a Drunken swearing Wretch, which is worse than a Dog, they will make him welcome : he shall sit down with them, and partake of their Dainties. And now tell me, you that love your Sins & your Pleasures, had you not rather keep company with a Drunkard, a Strumpet, a Swearer, a Thief, nay, a Dog, than with an honest hearted Christian. If you say no : what means

means your sower Carriage to the People of God ? Why do you look on them, as if you would eat them up ? Yet at the very same time, if you can but meet your Dog, or a drunken Companion, you can fawn upon them, take Acquaintance with them, to the Tavern or Ale-house with them, if it be two or three Times in a Week : But if the Saints of God meet together, pray together, and labour to edifie one another, you will stay till Doom's day before you will look into the House where they are. Ah ! Friends, when all comes to all, you will be found to love Drunkards, Strumpets, Dogs, any Thing, nay to serve the Devil, rather than to have loving and friendly Society with the Saints of God.

Moreover, *The Dogs came and Licked his Sores.* Here again you may see, not only the afflicted state of the Saints of God in this World, but also, that even Dogs themselves, according to their Kind, are more favourable to the Saints, than the sinful World ; tho' the Ungodly will have no Mercy on the Saints, yet it is ordered so, that these Creatures, Dogs, Lyons, &c. will. Tho' the Rich Man would not entertain him into his House, yet his Dogs will come and do him the best Good they can, even to lick his running Sores. It was thus with *Daniel*, when the World was mad against him, & would have him thrown to the Lyons to be devoured, the Lyons shut their Mouths at him (or rather the Lord did shut them up) so that there was not that hurt befall to him, as was desired by the Adversaries, *Dan. 6.* And this I am perswaded of, that would the Creatures do as some Men would have them, the Saints of God should not walk so quietly up

people of up and down the Streets, and other Places, as
 as if you they do. And as I said before, so I say again, I
 ne time am perswaded that at the Day of Judgment, ma-
 drunken ny Men's Conditions and Carriages, will be so
 ke Ac- laid open, that it will evidently appear, they
 or Ale- have been very merciless, and mad against the
 Times Children of God, insomuch, that when the Pro-
 et toge- vidence of God did fall out so as to cross their
 fie one Expectation, they have been very much offend-
 before ed thereat, as is very evidently seen in them who
 hey are set themselves to study, (*Psal.* 31. 13.) how to
 ou will bring the Saints into Bondage, & to thrust them
 Dogs, into Corners, as in these late Years. And be-
 er than cause God hath in his Goodness, ordered Things
 ith the otherwise, they have gnashed their Teeth there-
 at. Hence then let the Saints learn, not to com-
 s Sires, mit themselves to their Enemies; Beware of
 afflicted Men, *Mat.* 10. 17. They are very merciless Men,
 d, but and will not so much favour you (if they can
 ling to help it) as you may suppose they may. Nay,
 Saints, unless the over-ruling Hand of God in Good-
 y will ness, do order Things contrary to their Natural
 red so, Inclination, they will not favour you so much
 Tho' as a Dog:

Verse 22. *And it came to pass, that the Beggar
 died, and was carried by Angels into Abraham's
 Bosom: The Rich Man also died, and was buried.*

THE former Verses, do briefly hold forth the
 Carriage of the Ungodly in this Life, to-
 wards the Saints. Now this Verse doth hold
 forth the Departure both of the Godly and
 Ungodly, out of this Life.

Where he saith; *And it came to pass that the
 Beggar died, and was carried into Abraham's Bo-
 som; and the Rich Man died also.* This Beg-
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gar died, that represents the Godly ; and the Rich Man died, that represents the Ungodly. From whence observe ; neither Godly nor Ungodly must live always without a Change, either by Death or Judgment ; the good Man died, and the bad Man died. That Scripture doth also back this Truth, that good and bad must die, marvellous well, where it is said, *And it is appointed to Men once to die, and after that, to Judgment*, Heb. 2. 27.

Mark, he doth not say it is so, that Men by chance may die ; which might beget in the Hearts of the Ungodly especially, some hope to escape the Bitterness of it : But he saith, it is a Thing most certain, it is *appointed* ; mark, *it is appointed for Men once to die, and after that to Judgment*. God hath decreed it, that since Men have fallen from their happy Estate, that God at the first did set them in, *they shall die*, Rom. 6. 23. Now when it was said the Beggar died, and the Rich Man died, part of the meaning is, They ceased to be any more in this World : I say partly the meaning is, but not altogether : Tho' it be altogether the meaning when some of the Creatures die ; yet it is but in part the meaning, when it is said that Men, Women or Children die ; for there is to them something else to be said, more than a barely going out of the World : For if when unregenerated Men & Women die, there were an End of them, not only in this World, but in the World to come : For when ungodly Men and Women die, there is that to come after Death, that will be very terrible to them, namely, to be carried by the Angels of Darkness, out of their *Death-beds to Hell*, there to be reserved to the Judgment of the Great Day, when both

Body

Body and Soul shall meet and be united together again, and made capable to undergo the uttermost Vengeance of the Almighty to all Eternity. This is that, I say, which doth follow Man (that is not born again) after Death ; as is clear from that in *1 Pet.* 3. 18, 19. Where before speaking of Christ being raised again by the Power of his Eternal Spirit, he saith, *By which, that is, by that Spirit, he went and preached to the Spirits in Prison :* But what is the meaning of this ? Why, thus much, that those Souls who were once alive in the World, in the Time or Days in which *Noah* liv'd, being disobedient in their Times to the Calls of God, by his Spirit in *Noah*, for so I understand it, was according to that which was foretold by that Preacher, deprived of Life, and overcome by the Flood, and are now in Prison. Mark, he preached by the *Spirits in Prison :* He doth not say, who were in Prison, but to them (*in*) Prison, under Chains of Darkeness, reserved, or kept there in that Prison, in which now they are, (ready like Villains in the Goal, to be brought before the Judgment-seat of *Christ*, at the great Day.) But of this I shall speak further by and by. Now of this one Truth, that Men must die & depart this World, either enter into Joy, or else into Prison, to be reserved to the Day of Judgment, were believed, we should not have so many Wantons walk up & down the Streets as there do ; at least it would put a mighty Check to their filthy Carriages, so that they would not, should not walk so basely & sinfully as they do ; *the leazar*, notwithstanding he was so far from the Fear of God as he was, yet when he did but brag that God was offended, and threatned him

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The Groans of a Damned Soul.

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the Body and Soul shall meet and be united together again, and made capable to undergo the uttermost Vengeance of the Almighty to all Eternity. This is that, I say, which doth follow a Man (that is not born again) after Death ; as is clear from that in 1 *Pet.* 3. 18, 19. Where before speaking of Christ being raised again by the Power of his Eternal Spirit, he saith, *By which, that is, by that Spirit, he went and preached to the Spirits in Prison :* But what is the meaning of this ? Why, thus much, that those Souls who were once alive in the World, in the Time or Days in which *Noah* liv'd, being disobedient in their Times to the Calls of God, by his Spirit in *Noah*, for so I understand it, was according to that which was foretold by that Preacher, deprived of Life, and overcome by the Flood, and are now in Prison. Mark, he preached by the *Spirits in Prison :* He doth not say, who were in Prison, but to them (*in*) Prison, under Chains of Darkness, reserved, or kept there in that Prison, in which now they are, (ready like Villains in the Goal, to be brought before the Judgment-seat of *Christ*, at the great Day.) But of this I shall speak further by and by. Now if this one Truth, that Men must die & depart this World, either enter into Joy, or else into Prison, to be reserved to the Day of Judgment, were believed, we should not have so many Wantons walk up & down the Streets as there do ; at least it would put a mighty Check to their filthy Carriages, so that they would not, bleed not walk so basely & sinfully as they do ; *the tazzar*, notwithstanding he was so far from calling for of God as he was, yet when he did but brag, God was offended, and threatned him

for

for his Wickedness, *it made him hang down his Head, and his Knees knock together*, Dan. 5. 5, 6. If you read the Verses before, you will find he was Careless; and satisfying his Lusts in drinking and playing the Wanton, with his Concubines; But so soon as he did perceive the Finger of an Hand-writing, *then* (saith the Scripture) *The King's Countenance was changed, and his Thoughts troubled him; so that the Joints of his Loyns were loosed, and his Knees smote one against another.* And when Paul told Felix of Righteousness, Temperance, and Judgment to come, *it made him tremble.*

And let me tell thee (Soul) whoever thou art, that if thou didst but verily believe that thou must die and come into Judgment, it would make thee turn over a new Leaf. But this is the Misery, the Devil doth labour by all means, as to keep out other Things that are Good, so to keep out of the Heart, as much as in him lies, the Thoughts of passing from this Life into another World; for he knows if he can but keep them from the serious Thoughts of Death, he shall the more easily keep them in their Sins, & so from closing with Jesus Christ; as *Job* saith, *Their Houses are safe from fear; neither is the Rod of God upon them.* Which makes them say to God, *Depart from us, for we desire not the Knowledge of thy Way*, ver. 14. Because there is no fear of Death and Judgment to come, therefore they do put off God and his Ways; and spend their Days in their Sins, and in a Moment, that is, before they are aware, go down to the Grave, ver. 17. And thus it sared also with the Man spoken of in *Luke* 12. 20. The Man instead of thinking on Death, he thought how he might

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make his Barns bigger : But in the midst of his Business in the World, he lost his Soul before he was aware, supposing that Death had been many Years off : But God said unto him, *Thou Fool, thou troublest thy self about Things of this Life, thou puttest off the Thoughts of departing this World, when this Night thy Soul shall be taken from thee : or this Night, They, that is, the Devil will fetch away thy Soul from thee.* And here it comes to pass, Men's not being exercised with the Thoughts of departing this Life, that they are so unexpectedly to themselves and their Neighbours taken away from the Pleasures and Profits, yea, and all the Enjoyments they busie themselves withal while they live in this World. And hence it is again, that you have some in your Towns and Cities, that are so suddenly taken away, some from haunting the Ale-house, others from haunting the Whore-houses, others from Playing & Gaming, others from the Cares and covetous Desires after this World, unlooked for as by themselves, or their Companions. Hence it is also, that Men do so wonder at such Tidings as this, That there is such a one Dead, such a one departed ; it is because they do so little consider both the Transitoriness of themselves and their Neighbours ; For had they but their Thoughts well exercised about the shortness of this Life, and the Danger that will befall such as do miss of the Lord Jesus Christ, it would make them more wary and sober, and spend more Time in the Service of God, and be more delighted and diligent in enquiring after the Lord Jesus Christ, *who is the Deliverer from the Wrath to come,* 1 Thess. 1. 10. For, as I said before, it is evident, that they who live

after the Flesh in the Lusts thereof, do not really and seriously think on Death, and the Judgment that doth follow after; neither do they indeed endeavour so to do; for did they, it would make them say with holy *Job*, *All the Days of my appointed Time, will I wait till my Change come*, *Job* 14. 14. And as I said before, that not only the Wicked, but also the Godly have their Time to depart this Life. *And the Beggar died*. The Saints of the Lord, they must be deprived of this Life also, they must yield up the Ghost into the Hands of the Lord their God; they must also be separated from their Wives, Children, Husbands, Friends, Goods, and all that they have in the World. For God hath decreed it; It is appointed, namely, by the Lord, *for Men once to die, and we must appear before the Judgment seat of Christ*. As it is, *2 Cor.* 5. 10, 11. But it may be objected, if the Godly die as well as the Wicked, and if the Saints must appear before the Judgment-seat, as well as the Sinners; then what Advantage have the Godly more than the Ungodly, and how can the Saints be in a better Condition than the Wicked?

Answer. Read the 22d *Verse* over again, and you shall find a marvellous Difference between them, as much as is between Heaven and Hell, everlasting Joy, and everlasting Torments; for you find that when the Beggar died, which represents the Godly; *He was carried by the Angels into Abraham's Bosom*, or into everlasting Joy; *Psal.* 1. *But the Ungodly are not so*; but are hurried by the Devils into the Bottomless Pit, drawn away in their Wickedness, *Prov.* 14. 32. For he saith, *And in Hell he lift up his Eyes*.

When

When the Ungodly do die, their Misery beginneth, for then appear the Devils, like so many Lions; waiting every Moment, till the Soul depart from the Body. Sometimes they are visible to the dying Party; but sometimes more invisible; but always this is certain, they never miss of the Soul, if it do die out of the Lord Jesus Christ; but do hale it away to the Prison, as I said before, there to be tormented and reserved until the great & dreadful Day of Judgment, at which Day they must, Body and Soul, receive a final Sentence from the Righteous Judge, and from that Time be shut out from the Presence of God, into everlasting Woe and Distress. But the Godly, when the Time of their Departure is at hand, then also are the Angels of the Lord at hand; yea, they are ready waiting upon the Soul to conduct it safely into *Abraham's Bosom*. I do not say, but the Devils are oft times very busie doubtless, and attending on the Saints in their Sicknes; Ay, and no Question but they would willingly deprive the Soul of Glory. But here is the Comfort, as the Devils come from Hell, to devour the Soul, (if it be possible, at its Departure) so the Angels of the Lord come from Heaven to watch over & conduct the Soul (in spite of the Devils) safe into *Abraham's Bosom*.

David had the Comfort of his Brethren, *Psal.* 34. 7. saying, *The Angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them*, Mark, the Angel of the Lord encampeth round about his Children, to deliver them; From what? From their Enemies, of which the Devil is not the least. This is an excellent Comfort at any Time, to have the holy Angels

of God to attend a poor Man or Woman ; but especially it is comfortable in the Time of Distress, at the Time of Death, when the Devils beset the Soul, with all the Power that Hell can afford them. But now it may be, that the glorious Angels of God, do not appear at the first, to the View of the Soul ; nay, rather Hell stands before it, and the Devils ready, as if they would carry it thither ; but this is the Comfort, the Angels do always appear at the last, and will not fail the Soul, but will carry it safe into *Abraham's Bosom*. Ah Friend ! Consider there is an ungodly Man upon his Death-Bed, and he hath none to speak for him, none to speak Comfort unto him ; but it is not so with the Children of God, for they have the Spirit to comfort them. Here is the Ungodly, and they have no Christ to pray for their safe Conduct to Glory ; but the Saints have an Intercessor ; *Job 17. 19*. Here is the World when they die, they have none of the Angels of God to attend upon them ; but the Saints have their Company. In a Word, the unconverted Person when he dieth, he sinks into the Bottomless Pit ; but the Saints, when they die, do ascend with, and by the Angels into *Abraham's Bosom*, or into unspeakable Glory, *Luke 23. 43*.

Again it is said, that the Rich Man when he died, was buried, or put into the Earth ; but when the Beggar died, he was carried by the Angels into *Abraham's Bosom*. The one is a very excellent Stile, where he saith, he was carried by Angels into *Abraham's Bosom* ; it denotes the excellent Condition of the Saints of God, as I said before ; and not only so, but also the preciousness of the Death of the Saints ;

The Groans of a Damned Soul.

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in the Eyes of the Lord, Plalm 116. 15. that after Generations may see how precious in the Sight of the Lord, the Death of the Saints is, when he saith, *they are carried by the Angels into Abraham's Bosom.*

Thus many Times the Lord adorneth the Death & Departure of his Saints, to hold forth to after Generations, how excellent they are in his Eyes. It is said of *Enoch*, that God took him; of *Abraham* that he died in a good old Age; of *Moses*, that the Lord buried him; of *Elijah*, that he was taken up into Heaven; that the Saints sleep in Jesus; that they die in the Lord; that they rest from their Labours, that their Works follow them: That they are under the Altar, that are with Christ; that they are in Light; that they are to come with the Lord Jesus to judge the World. All which Sayings signifie thus much, That to die as a Saint, is a very great Honour and Dignity. But the Ungodly are not so. The Rich or Ungodly die, and are buried, he is carried from his Dwelling to his Grave, and there he is buried, hid in the Dust; and his Body doth not so fast moulder and come to nought there, but his Name doth stink as fast in the World. As saith the Holy Scripture: *The Name of the Wicked shall rot.* And indeed the Names of the Godly are not in so much Honour after their Departure, but the Wicked & their Names do as much rot. What a Dishonour to Posterity was the Death of *Balaam*, *Agag*, *Achitophel*, *Haman*, *Judas*, *Herod*, with the rest of their Companions?

Thus the Wicked have their Names written in the Earth, and they do perish and rot, and

the Name of the Saints cast forth a dainty Savour to the following Generations : And that the Lord Jesus doth signifie, where he saith, *The Godly are carried by the Angels into Abraham's Bosom.* And the Wicked are nothing worth ; where he saith, *The Ungodly die and are buried.*

Verse 23. *And in Hell he lift up his Eyes, being in Torment, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his Bosom.*

THe former Verse speaks only of the Departure of the Ungodly out of this Life, together with the glorious Conduct that the Godly have in the Kingdom of their Father. Now our Lord doth shew in this Verse, partly what doth, & shall befall to the Reprobate, after this Life is ended, where he saith [*And in Hell he lift up his Eyes ?*]

That is, the Ungodly after they depart this Life, do lift up their Eyes in Hell. From these Words, may be observed these Things.

1. That there is an Hell for Souls to be tormented in, when this Life is ended. Mark, after he was dead and buried, *In Hell he lift up his Eyes.*

2. That all that are Ungodly, and do live and die in their Sins, so soon as ever they die, they go into Hell. He died and was buried ; *And in Hell he lift up his Eyes.*

3. That some are so fast asleep and secure in their Sins, that they scarce know well where they are till they come into Hell ; and that I gather from these Words, *In Hell he lift up his Eyes.* He was asleep before, but Hell makes him lift up his Eyes.

As I said before, it is evident, there is an Hell for

or Souls, yea, and Bodies too, to be tormented
n after they depart this Life ; as is clear, First,
because the Lord Jesus Christ that cannot lie,
did say, that after the Sinner was dead and bu-
ried, *In Hell he lift up his Eyes.*

Now if it be objected that by Hell is here
meant the Grave. That I plainly deny.

First, Because there the Body is not sensible
of Torment or Ease ; but in that Hell, into
which the Spirits of the Damned depart, they
are sensible of Torment, and would very wil-
lingly be free from it, to enjoy Ease, which
they are sensible of the Want of ; as is clearly
discovered in this Parable, *Send Lazarus that he
may dip the Tip of his Finger in Water, to cool
my Tongue.*

Secondly, It is not meant the Grave, but
some other Place, because the Bodies, so long
as they lie there, are not capable of lifting up
their Eyes, to see the glorious Condition of the
Children of God, as the Souls of the Damned
do. *In Hell he lift up his Eyes.*

Thirdly, It cannot be the Grave, for then it
must follow, that the Soul was buried there
with the Body, which cannot stand with such
a dead State as here mentioned, for he saith, *the
Rich Man died* ; that is, his Soul was separated
from his Body. *And in Hell he lifted up his Eyes.*

If it be again objected, there is no Hell, but
in this Life ; that I do also deny, as I said, be-
fore ; after he was dead and buried, *In Hell he
lift up his Eyes.* And let me tell thee, O Soul,
whoever thou art, that if thou close not in fav-
ourably with the Lord Jesus Christ, and lay hold
on what he hath done, and is doing, in his own
Person for Sinners, thou wilt find such an Hell
after

after this Life is ended, that thou wilt not get out of again for ever & ever. And thou that art Wanton, and dost make but a Mock at the Servants of the Lord, when they tell thee of the Torments of Hell, thou wilt find, that when thou departest out of this Life, that Hell, even the Hell which is after this Life, will meet thee in thy Journey thither, and will with its hellish Crew, give thee such a sad Salutation, that thou wilt not forget it to all Eternity ; when that Scripture comes to be fulfilled on thy Soul in *Isai. 14. 9. Hell from beneath is moved for thee, to meet thee, at thy coming : It stirreth up the Dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the Earth: It hath raised from their Thrones all the Kings of the Nations. All they, that is, that are in Hell, shall say, Art thou become weak as we? Art thou become like unto us ?* O sometimes when I have had but Thoughts of going to Hell, and consider the Everlastingness of their Ruin, that fall in thither, it hath stirred me up rather to seek to the Lord Jesus Christ, to deliver me from thence, than to slight it, and make a Mock at it.

(*And in Hell he lift up his Eyes.*) The second Thing I told you was this, That all the Ungodly that live and die in their Sins, so soon as ever they depart this Life do descend into Hell. This is also verified by the Words in this Parable, where Christ saith, *He died and was buried, and in Hell he lift up his Eyes. As the Tree falls, so it shall lye, whether it be to Heaven or Hell, Eccl. 11. 3.* And as Christ said to the Thief on the Cross, *This Day shalt thou be with me in Paradise;* Even so the Devil in the like Manner may say unto the Soul, To Morrow thou

not get you shalt be with me in Hell. See then what
that are miserable Case he that dies in an unregene-
he Ser-ate, is in; he departs from a long Sickness to a
of the longer Hell; from the Gripings of Death, to
when he everlasting Torments of Hell. *And in Hell*
l, even *he lift up his Eyes.* Ah, Friends! If you were but
et thee our selves, you would have a care of you Souls;
hellish if you did but regard, you would see how Mad
at thou they are that slight the Salvation of their Souls.
a that *O, what will it profit thy Soul to have a Plea-*
soul in *sure in this Life, and Torment in Hell,* Mark 8.
thee, 6. Thou hadst better part with all thy Sins,
up the and Pleasures, and Companions, or whatsoever
Earth: thou delightest in, than to have Soul and Body
Kings cast into Hell. *O then do not neglect our Lord*
Hell, *Jesus Christ, lest thou drop down to Hell,* Heb.
Art 2. 3. Consider, would it not wound thee to
hen I thine Heart to come upon thy Death-bed, and
and instead of having the *Comfort* of a well spent *Life,*
that and the Merits of the Lord Jesus Christ, toge-
er to ther with the *Comfort* of his glorious Spirit:
me To have, first, the Sight of an ill-spent Life,
Mock thy Sins flying in thy Face, thy Conscience ut-
cond ter it self, with Thunder-claps against thee, the
Un- Thoughts of God terrifying of thee, Death,
n as with his merciless Paw seizing upon thee, the
Hell. Devils standing ready to scramble for thy Soul,
ara- and Hell enlarging her self, and ready to swal-
ied, low thee up; and Eternity or Misery or Tor-
Tree ment attending upon thee; from which, there
s or will be no Release. For mark, Death doth not
the come alone to an unconverted Soul, but with
with such Company, as wert thou but sensible of it,
like would make thee Tremble. I pray consider
ow that Scripture, Rev. 6. 8. *And I looked and be-*
nou *hold a pale Horse, and his Name that sat upon*
him

him was Death, and Hell followed with him. Mark, Death doth not come alone to the Ungodly, no, but Hell goeth with him. O miserable Comforters ! O miserable Society ! Here come Death and Hell unto thee. Death goeth into thy Body ; and separates Body and Soul asunder ; Hell stands without (as I may say) to embrace, or rather, to crush thy Soul between his everlasting Grinders. Then thy Mirth, thy Joy, thy sinful Delights will be ended when this comes to pass. Lo, it will come ! Blessed are all those, that thro' Jesus Christ's Mercies, by Faith, do escape these Soul murdering Companions. *And in Hell he lifted up his Eyes.*

The third Thing you know that we did observe from these words, was this, *That some are so fast asleep and secure in their Sins, that they scarce know where they are, until they come into Hell.* And that I told you I gather by these words, *In Hell he lift up his Eyes.* Mark, it was in Hell that he lift up his Eyes. Now some do understand by these words, that he came to himself, or began to consider with himself, or to think with himself in what an Estate he was, and what he was deprived of ; which is still a Confirmation of the Thing laid down by me. There it is that they come to themselves, that is, there they are sensible where they are indeed ; Thus it fares with some Men, that they scarce know where they are, till they lift up their Eyes in Hell. It is with those people as with those that fall down in a Swoon ; you know if a Man do fall down in a Swoon in one Room, tho' you take him up and carry him into another, yet he is not sensible where he is till he cometh unto himself

himself, and lifts up his Eyes. Truly thus, as it is to be feared, it is with many poor Souls, they are so senseless, so hard, *so seared in their Conscience*, 1 Tim. 4. 2. that they are very ignorant of their State; and when Death comes, it strikes them as it were into a *Swoon* (especially if they die suddenly) & so they are hurried away, and scarce know where they are, *till in Hell they lift up their Eyes*. This is he who dieth in his full Strength, fully at ease and quiet, 21, 23.

Of this Sort are they spoken of in *Psal. 73.* where he saith, *there are no Bands in their Death; but their Strength is firm: They are not troubled as other Folk, neither are they plagued like other Men.* And again, *they spend their Days in Wealth, and in a Moment; Mark, in a Moment, before they are aware, they go down to the Grave, Job 21. 17.*

Indeed this is too much known by woful & daily Experience; sometimes when we go to visit them that are Sick in the Towns & Places where we live, Oh, how senseless. how seared in their Consciences are they! They are neither sensible of Heaven nor of Hell; of Sin, nor of a Saviour; speak to them of their Condition, & the State of their Souls, and you shall find them as Ignorant, as if they had no Soul to regard. Others, tho' they lye ready to dye, yet they are busying themselves about their outward Affairs, as tho' they should certainly live here, even to live and enjoy the same for ever. Again, come to others, speak to them about the State of their Souls, tho' they have no more Experience of a new Birth, than a Beast, yet they will speak as confidently of their Eternal Estate

Estate, and the Welfare of their Soul, as they had the most excellent Experience of any Man or Woman in the World, saying, *shall have peace*, Deut. 29. 9. When, as said even now, the Lord knows they are as ignorant of the new Birth, of the Nature & Operation of Faith, of the Witness of the Spirit, as if there were no new Birth, no Faith, no Witness of the Spirit of Christ, in any of the Saints in the World : Nay, thus many of them are, even an Hour or less before their Departure. Ah, poor Souls ! though they may go away here like a *Lamb*, as the World says, yet if thou could but follow them a little, to stand and listen ; soon after their Departure, it is to be feared you shall hear them roar like a Lyon, at their first entrance into Hell, far worse than ever did *Corah*, &c. when they went down quick into the Ground, *Numb* 16 31, 32, 33, 34, 35.

Now by this one Thing doth the Devil take great Advantage on the Hearts of the Ignorant, suggesting unto them, that because the Party deceased, departed so quietly, without all doubt they are gone to Rest and Joy ; when alas ! It is to be feared, the Reason why they went away so quietly, was rather because they were senseless and hardened in their Consciences ; yea, dead before in Sins and Trespases. For had they had but some awakenings on their *Death-beds*, as some have had, they would have made all the Town ring of their doleful Condition. But because they are scared and Ignorant, so depart quietly, therefore the World takes Heart at Grace, (as we use to say) and make no great Matter of living and dying, they cannot tell how ; *Therefore Pride compasseth*
them

oul, as them as a Chain, Psal. 73. 5, 6. But let them
nce of a look to themselves, for if they have not Interest
saying, in the Lord Jesus, now while they live in the
en, as World, they will, whither they die raging or
e as igno still, go unto the same Place, and lift up their
peration *Eyes in Hell.*

O my Friends, did you but know, what a mi-
ferable Condition they are in, that go out of this
s of th World without an Interest in the Son of God,
s in th it would make you smite upon your Thigh,
even a and in the Bitterness of your Souls cry out, *Acts*
Ah, poo 16. 29, 30, 31. *Men and Brethren, what shall we*
re like do to be saved? And not only so, but thou
ould bu wouldest not be comforted until thou didst find
n; soon a Rest for thy Soul in the Lord Jesus Christ.

red you Verse 23. *And in Hell he lift up his Eyes be-*
their first *ing in Torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and*
ver did *Lazarus in his Bosom.*
ck into

Something in brief I have observed from the
vil take first Part of this Verse, namely from these Words,
norant, *And in Hell he lift up his Eyes.* And indeed,
e Party I have observed but some Things, for they are
out all very full of Matter, and many Things might
when be taken Notice of in them. There is one
y they Thing more that I might touch upon, as couch-
se they ed in this Saying, and that is this: Methinks
Consci- the Lord Jesus Christ doth hereby signifie, that
spasses. Men are mutually unwilling to see or to take
ngs on Notice of their sad State, I say by Nature; but
would tho' now they are willingly Ignorant; yet in
holeful Hell they shall lift up their Eyes. That is, in
ed and Hell they shall see and understand their mise-
World rable Condition; and therefore to these Words;
) and *In Hell he lifted up his Eyes,* he adds, *being in*
g, they *Torment.* As if he had said, tho' once they shut
passeth their Eyes, tho' once they were (2 Pet. 3. 5.)

them D willing.

willingly Ignorant, yet when they depart into Hell, they shall be so miserably handled and tormented, that they shall be forced to lift up their Eyes. While Men live in this World, and are in a natural State, they will have a good Conceit of themselves, and of their Condition; they will conclude that they are Christians, that *Abraham* is their Father, *Matth.* 3. 7, 8. and their State to be as good as the best; they will conclude they have Faith, the Spirit, good Hope and Interest in the Lord Jesus Christ; but then when they drop into Hell, and lift up their Eyes there, and behold, first their Souls to be in extream Torments; their Dwelling to be the bottomless Pit; their Company thousands of damned Souls; also the innumerable Company of Devils, and the hot scalding Vengeance of God, not only to drop, but to fall very violently upon them; then they being willing to be awakned, who all their Life-time were in a dead Sleep, I say, when this comes to pass; For lo! it will; then in Hell they shall lift up their Eyes, in the midst of Torment they shall lift up their Eyes.

Again you may observe in these Words, *And in Hell he lift up his Eyes being in Torments,* That the Time of the ungodly Men smarting for their Sins, will be in the Torments of Hell. Now here I am put to a Stand, when I consider the Torments of Hell, into which the damned do fall: O unspeakable Torments! O endless Torments! Now that thy Soul might be made to flee from these intolerable Torments, into which the Damned do go, I shall show you briefly what are the Torments of Hell. First, by the Names of it. Secondly, by the sad State thou

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The Groans of a Damned Soul.

31

thou wilt be in, if thou comest there. First, by the Names: It is called, *a never dying Worm*, Mark 9. It is called, *an Oven, Fire, hot*, Mal. 4. 1. It is called, *a Furnace, a fiery Furnace*, Mat. 13. It is called *the bottomless Pit; the unquenchable Fire, Fire and Brimstone, Hell Fire, the Lake of Fire, devouring Fire, everlasting Fire, eternal Fire, a Stream of Fire*, Rev. 21.

First, One Part of the Torments will be this, thou shalt have a full Sight of all thy ill-spent Life from first to last; though here thou canst Sin to Day and forget it to Morrow; yet there thou shalt be made to remember how thou didst sin against God at such a Time, and in such a Place, for such a Thing, and with such a One, which will be an Hell unto thee, *Psalm 50. 21. God will set them in Order before thine Eyes.*

2. Thou shalt have the Guilt of them all lie heavy on thy Soul, not only the Guilt of one or two, but the Guilt of them all together, and there they shall lie in thy Soul, as if thy Belly was full of Pitch, and set on a light Fire. Here Men can sometimes think on their Sins with Delight, but there with unspeakable Torment; for that I understand to be the Fire that Christ speaketh of, which shall never be quenched, *Mark 8. 43, 44, 45, 46.* While Men live here, O how doth the Guilt of one Sin, sometime crush the Soul. It makes a Man in such a Plight, that he is weary of his Life, so that he can neither rest at Home nor Abroad, neither up nor in Bed. Nay, I do know, that they have been so tormented with the Guilt of one sinful Thought, that they have been at their Wits-end, and have hanged themselves. But now when thou comest into Hell, and hast not only

one or two, or an hundred Sins, with the Guilt of them all on thy Soul and Body, but all the Sins that ever thou didst commit since thou camest into the World, altogether clapt on thy Conscience at one Time, as one should clap a red hot Iron to thy Breast, and there to continue to all Eternity ; this is miserable.

Again, then thou shalt have brought into thy Remembrance, the sighting of the Gospel of Christ ; here thou shalt consider how willing Christ was to come into the World to save Sinners, and for what a Trifle thou didst reject him. This is plainly held forth in *Isai. 28.* where speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Foundation of Salvation, *ver. 16.* he saith of them that reject the Gospel, that when the overflowing Scourge doth pass through the Earth (which I understand to be at the End of the World) then saith he, *It shall take you Morning by Morning, by Day and by Night shall it pass over you ;* that is, continually without any Intermission. *And it shall be a Vexation only to bear the Report.* A Vexation that is a Torment, or a great Part of Hell only to understand the good Tidings that come into the World by Christ's Death for poor Sinners. And you will find this verily to be the Mind of the Spirit, if you compare it with *Isai. 53. 1.* where he speaks of Men's turning their Backs upon the Tenders of God's Grace in the Gospel, he saith, *Who hath believed our Report,* or the Gospel declared by us ? Now this will be a mighty Torment to the Ungodly, when they shall understand the Goodness of God was so great, that he even sent his Son out of his Bosom to die for Sinners, and yet they should be so foolish

to put him off from one Time to another, that they should be so foolish, as to lose Heaven, and Christ, and Eternal Life in Glory for the Society of a Company of Drunkards ; that they should lose their Souls for a little Sport, for this World, for a Strumpet, for that which is lighter than Vanity and Nothing ; I say this will be a great Torment unto thee.

4. Another Part of thy Torment will be this, Thou shalt see thy Friends, thy Acquaintance, thy Neighbours ; nay, it may be thy Father, thy Mother, thy Wife, thy Husband, thy Children, thy Brother, thy Sister, with others, in the Kingdom of Heaven, and thy self thrust out, *Luke 13. 28. There shall be weeping, &c. when you shall see Abraham (your Father) and Isaac and Jacob, (together with your Brethren) the Prophets in the Kingdom of Heaven, and you your selves thrust out.* Nay, saith he, *They shall come from the East and from the West, that is, those whom thou didst never see in all thy Life before, and they shall sit down with thy Friends and thy Neighbours, thy Wife and thy Children, in the Kingdom of Heaven,* and thou for thy Sins and Disobedience shalt be shut, nay, thrust out. O wonderful Torment !

5. Again, thou shalt have none but a Company of damned Souls, with an innumerable Company of Devils to keep Company with thee ; while thou art in this World, the very Thoughts of the Devils appearing to thee, makes thy Flesh to tremble, and thine Hair ready to stand upright on thy Head. But O ! What will thou do (when not only the Supposition of the Devils appearing) but the real Society of all the Devils of Hell will be with thee

thee howling and roaring, screeching & roaring in such a hideous Manner, that thou wilt be even at thy Wits-End, and be ready to run stark mad again for Anguish and Torment.

6. Again that thou mightest be tormented to Purpose, the mighty God of Heaven will lay as great Wrath and Vengeance upon thee as ever he can, by the might of his glorious Power. As I said before, thou shalt have his Wrath, not by Drops, but by whole Showers shall it come, thunder upon thy Body and Soul so fast, and so thick, that thou shalt be tormented out of Measure. And so saith the Scripture, *2 Thes. 1. 9.* speaking of the wicked, *Who shall be banished with everlasting Destruction from the Presence of the Lord, and from the Glory of his Power, when the Saints shall be admiring his Goodness and Glory.*

Again, this thou shalt have, as I said before, without any Intermiſſion, thou shalt not have any Ease so long as while a Man may turn himself round; thou shalt have it always every Hour, Day and Night; for their Worm never dies but always gnaws, and their Fire is never quench'd; as it is written in *Mark 9.*

Again, in this Condition thou must be forever, and that is as sad as all the rest. For if a Man were to have all his Sins laid to his Charge, & Communion with the Devils, and as much Wrath as the great God of Heaven, can inflict upon him, I say, if it were but for a Time, even ten thousand Years, and so end, there would be Ground of Comfort, and Hopes of Deliverance; but here is thy Misery, this is thy State for ever, here thou must be for ever; when thou lookest about thee, & seest
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what an Innnumerable Company of howling Devils thou art amongst, thou shalt think this again, this is my Portion for ever. When thou hast been in Hell so many thousand Years as there are Stars in the Firmament, or Drops in the Sea, or Sands on the Sea-shore, yet thou hast to lie there for ever. O this one Word *Ever*, how will it Torment thy Soul !

Friends, I have only given a very short Touch of the Torments of Hell. O ! I am set, I am set, and am not able to utter what my mind conceives of the Torments of Hell. Yet this let me say to thee, accept of God's Mercy thro' our Lord Jesus Christ, lest thou feel that with thy *Conscience*, which I cannot express with my Tongue, and say, *I am sorely Tormented in this Flame.*

And seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his Bosom.

When the Damned are in this pitiful State, surrounded with Fears, with Terrors, with Torment and Vengeance, one Thing they shall have, which is this, They shall see the happy and blessed State of God's Children : He seeth *Abraham* afar off, and *Lazarus* in his Bosom : which as I said before, is the happy State of the Saints, when this Life is ended. This now shall be so far from being an Ease unto them, that it shall most wonderfully aggravate or heighten their Torment, as I said before. There shall be Weeping, or Cause of Lamentation, when they shall see *Abraham* and *Isaac* and *Jacob*, in the Kingdom of Heaven, and themselves thrust out.

2. Observe, Those that die in their Sins are far from going to Heaven ; he seeth *Abraham* afar

afar off, and *Lazarus* in his Bosom. And indeed, it is just with God to deal with them, that die in their Sins according to what they have done; and to make them who are far from Righteousness now, to stand far from Heaven to all Eternity, Harken to this, ye stout-hearted, that are far from Righteousness, and that are resolved to go on in your Sins, when you die, you will be far from Heaven; you will see *Lazarus*; but it will afar off.

Again, *he seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his Bosom.*

These are some of the Things the Damned do behold, so soon as they come into Torment. Mark, *And he seeth Lazarus in Abraham's Bosom.* *Lazarus*, Who was he? Why, even he that was so flighted, so disregarded, so undervalued by this Ungodly one, while he was in the World, he seeth *Lazarus* in his Bosom.

From whence observe, That those who live and die the Enemies of the Saints of God, let them be never so Great and Stout, let them bear never so much Sway while they are in the World, let them brag and boast never so much, while they are here, they shall in spite of their Teeth see the Saints, yea, the poor Saints, even the *Lazarus's* or the ragged ones that belong to Jesus, to be in a better Condition than themselves. O! Who do you think was in the best Condition? Who do you think saw themselves in the best Condition, he that was in Hell, or he that was in Heaven? He that was in Darkness, or he that was in Light? He that was in everlasting Joy, or he that was in everlasting Torments? The one with God, Christ, Saints, Angels, the other in tormenting Flames, under the

And in- the Curse of God's eternal Hatred, with the De-
them, vils and their Angels, together with an innu-
at they merable Company of howling, roaring, cursing
are far ver burning Reprobates? Certainly, this Ob-
n Hea- servation will be easily proved to be true here
stout- n this World, by him that looks upon it with
s, and n understanding Heart, and will clear it self to
when be true in the World to come, by such as shall
; you go either to Heaven or to Hell.

2. The second Observation from these Words
(*And seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his
Bosom*) is this ; they that are the Persecutors
of the Saints of the Lord, now in this World,
shall see the Lord's persecuted Ones, to be they
that are so highly esteemed by the Lord, as to
sit or to be in *Abraham's Bosom* (in everlast-
ing Glory) tho' the Enemies to the Children of
God did so lightly esteem them, that they
scorn'd to let them gather up the Dogs-meat
that fell under their Table. This is also veri-
fied, and held forth plainly by this Parable.
And therefore be not grieved, O you that are
the tempted, persecuted, afflicted, sighing, pray-
ing Saints of the Lord, tho' your Adversaries
look upon you now with a disdainful, surly,
rugged, proud and haughtty Countenance, yet
the Time shall come, when they shall spy you
in *Abraham's Bosom*.

I might enlarge upon these Things, but shall
leave them to the Spirit of the Lord, which can
better by ten thousand Degrees enlarge them
on thy Heart and Conscience, than I can upon
a piece of Paper : Therefore leaving thee to
the Blessing of the Lord, I shall come to the
next Verse, and shall be brief in speaking to
that also, and so pa's to the rest.

Verse

Verse 24. And he cried, and said, Father, Abraham, have Mercy upon me ; and send Lazarus that he may dip the Tip of his Finger in Water, and cool my Tongue, for I am tormented in this Flame.

YOU know I told you, that *Verse 22.* is a Discovery of the Departure of the Godly, and the Ungodly out of this Life ; where he saith, *The Beggar died, and the Rich Man also died.* The *23 Verse* is a Discovery of the proper Places, both of the Godly, and Ungodly after Death ; one being in *Abraham's Bosom*, or in *Glory*, the other in *Hell* : Now *Verse 24.* is a Discovery of the too late Repentance of the Ungodly, when they are dropt down into *Hell* ; (*And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have Mercy on me.*

From these Words, *And he cried*, we may observe, First, What a Change the Ungodly will have when they come into *Hell*. *He cried* : It is like he was laughing, jesting, jeering, drinking, mocking, swearing, cursing, prating, persecuting the godly in his Prosperity among his filthy Companions : But now the Case is otherwise, now he is in another Frame, now his proud, stout, churlish Carriage is come down ; *And he cried.* The Laughter of the Ungodly will not last always, but will be sure to end in a Cry ; *the triumphing of the Wicked is short*, Job 20. 5. Consider, you must have a Change either here or in *Hell*. If you be not new Creatures, Regenerate Persons, New-born Babes, in this World before you go hence, your Note will be changed ; your Conditions will be changed ; for if you come into *Hell*, you must cry. O did but the singing Drunk-

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ards, when they are making Merry on the Ale-
bench, think on this, it would make them change
their Note, and cry, what shall I do? Whither
shall I go when I die? But as I said before, the
Devil, as he labours to get poor Souls to fol-
low their Sins, so he labours also to keep the
Thoughts of eternal Damnation out of their
Minds: and indeed, these two Things are so
nearly link'd together, that the Devil cannot
well get the Soul to go on in Sin with Delight,
unless he can keep the Thoughts of that terri-
ble After-clap out of their Minds.

But let them know, that it shall not always be
thus with them; for if when they depart, they
drop down into eternal Destruction, they shall
have such a Sense of their Sins, and the Punish-
ment due to the same, that it shall make them
to cry; and he cried. O what an Alteration
will there be among the Ungodly, when they
go out of this World? It may be a Fortnight
or a Month before their Departure, they were
light, stout, surly, drinking themselves drunk,
slighting God's People, mocking at Goodness,
and delighting in Sin, following the World,
seeking after Riches, faring deliciously, keep-
ing Company with the bravest: But now they
are dropt down into Hell, *they cry*. A little
while ago they were painting their Faces, feed-
ing their Lusts, following their Whores, robbing
their Neighbours, telling of Lies, following
of Plays and Sports to pass away the Time, but
now they are in Hell, *they do cry*. It may be the
last Year they heard some good Sermons, were
invited to receive Heaven, were told their Sins
should be pardoned, if they closed in with Je-
sus, but refusing his Proffers, and slighting the
Grace

Grace that was once tendred, they are now in Hell, and do cry.

Before they had so much Time (they tho't that they could not tell how to spend it, unless it were in Hunting, and Whoring, in Dancing and Playing, and spending whole Hours yea, Days, nay, Weeks, in the Lusts of the Flesh. But when they depart into another Place, and begin to lift up their Eyes in Hell, and consider their miserable, and irrecoverable Condition, *They will cry.*

O, what a Condition wilt thou fall into, when thou dost depart this World; if thou depart Unconverted, & not born again, thou hadst better have been smother'd the first Hour that thou wast born, thou hadst better have been plucked one Limb from another; thou hadst better have been made a Dog, a Toad, a Serpent, nay, any other Creature in the visible World, than to die Unconverted: and this thou wilt find to be true, when *in Hell thou dost lift up thine Eyes, and dost cry.*

Here then before we go any further, you may see that it is not without good Ground, that these Words are here spoken by our Lord, that when any of the Ungodly do depart into Hell, *they will cry!* Why so?

1. They will cry to think that they should be cut off from the Land of the Living, never more to have any footing therein.

2. They will cry to think, that the Gospel of Christ should be so often proffered to them, and yet they are not profited by it.

3. They will cry to think, that now, tho' they would never so willingly Repent and be saved, yet they are past all Recovery.

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4. They will cry to think that they should be so foolish as to follow their Pleasures, when others were following of Christ, *Luke 13 28.*

5. They will cry to think that they must be separated from God, Christ and the Kingdom of Heaven, and that for ever.

6 To think that their crying will now do them no Good.

7 To think that at the Day of Judgment, they must stand at the left Hand of Christ, among an innumerable Company of damned Ones

8. They will cry to think, that *Lazarus*, whom once they slighted, must be of them that must sit down with Christ to judge, or together with Christ, to pass a Sentence of Condemnation on their Souls for ever and ever, *1 Cor. 6. 2, 3.*

9. Cry to think, that when the Judgment is over, and others are taken into the everlasting Kingdom of Glory, then thou must depart back again into that Dungeon of Darkness, from whence thou camest out (to appear before that terrible Tribunal) where thou shalt be tormented so long as Eternity lasts, without the least Intermission or Ease.

How sayest thou, O thou wanton, proud, swearing, lying, ungodly Wretch! Whether this be to be slighted and made a Mock at; And again, tell me now, if it be not better to leave Sin, and to close in with Christ Jesus, notwithstanding that Reproach, thou shalt meet with - for so doing, than to have a little while in this World, in Pleasures and feeding thy Lusts, in neglecting the Welfare of thy Soul, and refusing to be justified by Jesus, and in a
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Moment,

Moment, to drop down into Hell, and to cry ? O ! Consider, I say, consider betimes, and put not off the Tenders of the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, lest you lift up your Eyes in Hell, and cry for Anguish of Spirit.

And he cried, and said, Father Abraham, have Mercy upon me, and send Lazarus, &c.

These Words do not only hold forth the lamentable Condition of the Damned, and their lamentable Howling and Crying out, under their Anguish of Spirit, but also they do signify to us (as I said before) their too late Repentance ; and also that they would very willingly, if they might, be set at Liberty from that everlasting Misery, that by their Sins they have plunged themselves into. I say, these Words doth hold forth a Desire that the damned have, to be delivered from those Torments that they now are in : *O Father, Abraham, saith he, have Mercy upon me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the Tip of his Finger in Water, and cool my Tongue, for I am tormented in this Flame.* These Words, *Father Abraham*, may have some Difficulty in them. It is possible that some may think them to be meat for *Abraham*, and those, or him that cried out here, to be the *Jews*. Or it may be, some may understand it to be God, or Jesus Christ his Son, which I rather suppose it may be, that is here cried unto ; because you find the same Cry to him, as it were uttered by the Ungodly in other Places of the Scripture ; as in *Luke 13. 25, 26. Then shall they say, Lord, Lord, we have eat and drank in thy Presence, and thou hast taught in our Streets.* Nay more, *In thy Name have we cast out Devils, and in thy Name done many wonderful*

wonderful Works. This was just at their Rejection. And again, in *Mat. 25. 11.* They cry again to him, even to *Jesus, Lord, Lord, open to us.* And he there again gives them a Repulse, as also in this Parable. But however, or whosoever *Abraham* is, yet these Truths may be observed from the Words.

1. That the Damned when in an irrecoverable Estate, will seek for, or desire Deliverance from the Wrath that they are, and shall be in for Eternity. *Sure in the Floods of great Waters they shall not come nigh unto him.*

2. That they will pray (if I may so call it) earnestly for Deliverance, from their miserable Estate. These two Things are clear from the Words. For mark, he not only said, *Father Abraham, have Mercy upon me ;* But he cried, and said, *Father Abraham, have Mercy on me.* From whence take a third Observation, and that is, There is a Time coming wherein tho' Men shall both cry and pray, yet they are like to have no Mercy at the Hand of God ; For so was this Man served, as I shall further shew by and by when I come to it.

Some People are so deluded by the Devil, as to think that God is so Merciful, as to own and regard any Thing for Prayer ; They think any Thing will go for current and good Satisfaction, while they are here in this World, thro' Ignorance of the true Nature of the Mercy of God, and the Knowledge in what way God is satisfied for Sinners. Now I say, thro' Ignorance they think, that if they do but Mutter over some Form of Prayers, tho' they know not what they say, nor what they request, yet God is satisfied, yea, very well satisfied with their

Doings; when alas! there is nothing less. O Friends, I beseech you to look about you, and seek in good earnest for the Spirit of Christ, so to help you now, to strive and pray, and to enable you to lay hold on Christ, that your Souls may be saved, lest the Time come, that tho' you cry and pray, and wish also that you had laid hold on the Lord *Jesus*, yet you must and shall be damned.

Then again, you may see that tho' God be willing to save Sinners at some Time, yet this Time doth not always last. No. he that can find in his Heart to turn his Back upon *Jesus Christ* now, shall have the Back turned upon him hereafter, when he may cry and pray for Mercy, and yet go without it. God will have a Time to meet with them, that now do not seek after him: They shall have a Time, yea, Time enough hereafter to repent their Folly, and to beseech themselves, for turning their Backs upon the Lord *Jesus Christ*. *I will laugh at their Calamities*, saith he, *and mock when their Fear cometh*, Prov. 1. 26, 27.

Again, this should admonish us to take Time while it is proffered, lest we repent us of our Unbelief & Rebellion, when we are depriv'd of it. Ah, Friends! Time is precious: an Hours Time to hear a Sermon is Precious: I have sometimes thought thus with my self, *Set the Case, the Lord should send two or three of his Servants, the Ministers of the Gospel, to Hell among the Damned with this Commission: Go ye to Hell, and preach my Grace to those that are there: Let your Sermons be an Hour long, & hold forth the Merits of my Son's Birth, Righteousness, Death, Resurrection, Ascension and Intercession,*
with

with all my Love in him, and proffer it to them, telling them, that now once, do I proffer the means of Reconciliation to them They who are now roaring. being past hope, would then leap at the least Proffer of Mercy: Oh! that they could spend whole Days, Weeks, nay, Years in rejecting the Son of God, would now be glad of one Tender of that Mercy; *Father, saith he, have Mercy on me.*

Again, from these Words you may observe, that Mercy would be welcome, when Souls are under Judgment: Now this Soul is in the Fire, now he is under the Wrath of God; now he is in Hell, there to be tormented; now he is with the Devils and Damned Spirits, now he feels the Vengeance of God: Oh! *now have mercy upon me!* Here you may see, that Mercy is prized by them that are in Hell, they would be glad if they could have it. *Father, have mercy upon me; for my poor Soul's Sake, send me a little Mercy.*

And send Lazarus, that he may dip the Tip of his Finger in Water, and cool my Tongue.

These Words do not only hold forth that the Ungodly have a Desire of Mercy, but what those Mercies are, what these poor Creatures would be glad of.

As first to have the Company of a *Lazarus* granted to them. *Father Abraham, have Mercy upon me, and send Lazarus.* Now *Lazarus* was he that was beloved of God, and also he that was hated of them. Therefore,

2. Observe, That those Saints, that the world in their Life-time could not endure, now they are departed, they would be glad to have Society with them. *O now send Lazarus!* Tho'

the Time was when I cared not for him, yet now let me have some Society with him.

Tho' the World disregarded the Society of God's Children now, yet there is a Time coming, in which they would be glad to have the least Company with them. Nay, do but observe, those of the Saints that are now most rejected by them, even from them shall they be glad of Comfort, if it might be, send *Lazarus*; he that I slighted more than my Dogs, he that I could not endure, should come into my House, but must lie at my Gate, send him: Now *Lazarus* shall be welcome to me, now I desire some Comfort from him; but he shall go without it.

From whence again observe; That there is a Time coming, O, ye silly dogged Persecutors of the Saints, that they shall slight you, as much ever you slighted them. You have given them many a hard Word; told many a Lie of them; given them many a Blow: And now in your greatest Need and Extremity, they shall not pity you: The Righteous shall rather Rejoyce, when he seeth the Vengeance of God upon thee, *Psalms* 58. 10.

Again, *Send Lazarus*. From whence observe, *That any of the Saints shall then be own'd by you to be Saints*. Now you look upon them to be the Sect with *Hymeneus* and *Philetus*, but then you shall see them to be the *Lazarus's* of God, even God's dear Children. Tho' now the Saints of the Lord will not be own'd by you, because they are beggarly, low, poor, contemptible among you; yet the Day is coming, that you shall own them, desire their Company, and wish for the least Courtelie from them.

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Send Lazarus, that he may dip the Tip of his Finger in Water, and cool my Tongue : For I am tormented in this Flame.

Thus shall the Souls that abide in their Sins, cry out in the Bitterness of their Spirits, with wonderful Anguish and Torment of Conscience without Intermission ; *That he may dip the Tip of his Finger in Water and cool my Tongue.* That he, namely the Man who I before scorn'd should eat with the Dogs of my Flock ; that before I slighted and had no Regard of, that I shut out of Door : send him, *that he may dip the Tip of his Finger in Water and cool my Tongue.*

Now these Words *That he may dip the Tip of his Finger in Water, &c.* Do hold forth the least Friendship, or Favour : as if he should have said, now I would be glad of the least Mercy ; now I would be glad of the least Comfort, tho' it be but one drop of cold Water, on the Tip of his Finger. One would have thought that this had been a small Request, a small Courtesie, one Drop of Water ; what is that ? Take a Pail full of it, if that will do thee any Good. But mark, he is not permitted to have so much as one Drop, not so much as a Man may hold upon the Tip of his Finger ; This signifies, that they that fall short of Christ, shall be tormented even as long as Eternity lasts, and shall not have so much as the least Ease, no, not so long as while a Man may turn himself round, and not so much as to swallow his Spittle, *not one Drop of cold Water.*

O, that these Things did take Place in your Hearts, how would it make you to seek after Rest for your Souls, before it be too late, before the Sun of the Gospel be set upon you.

Consider,

18 *Sighs from Hell : Or,*
Consider, I say, the Misery of the Ungodly, that they shall be in, and avoid their Vices, by closing in with the tenders of Mercy ; lest you partake of the same Portion with them, and cry out in the Bitterness of your Souls, *One Drop of cool Water, to cool my Tongue : For I am tormented in this Flame.*

Indeed the Reason why the poor World do not so earnestly desire for Mercy, is partly, because they do not so seriously consider the Torment that they must certainly fall into, if they die out of Christ. For let me tell you, did but your Souls indeed consider that Wrath, that doth by Right fall to their Shares, because of their Sins against God, they would make more haste to God thro' Christ for Mercy, than they do ; then we should have them say, It is good closing with Christ to day, before we fall into such Distress.

But why is it said, *Let him dip the Tip of his Finger in Water, and cool my Tongue?* Because that as the several Members in the Body, have their Share in Sin, and committing of that ; so the several Members of the Body, shall at that Time be punished for the same. Therefore, when Christ is admonishing his Disciples, that they should not turn aside from him, and that they should rather Fear and Dread the Power of God, than any other Power ; he saith, *Fear him therefore, that can cast Body and Soul into Hell,* Luke 12. 4. And again, *Fear him that can destroy both Soul and Body in Hell.* Here is not one Member only, but *all the Body*, the whole Body, of which the Hands, Feet, Eyes, Ears and Tongue are Members. And I am persuaded, that tho' this may be judged Carnal, by

godly, some now, yet it will appear to be a Truth
es, by men to the greater Misery of those, who shall
ft you be forced to undergo that which God, in his
and cry judgment shall inflict upon them. O then
Drop they will cry, one Dram of Ease for my cursing,
m for- wearing, lying, jeering Tongue. Some Ease
ld do for my bragging, braving, flattering, threat-
y, be- ing, dissembling Tongue. Now Men can let
Tor- their Tongues run at Random, as we us'd to say;
they how they will be apt to say, *Our Tongues are*
l but *our own, who shall controul them?* Psal. 12. 4.
that out then they will be in another Mind. Then,
se of O, that I might have a little Ease for my de-
more ceitful Tongue! Methinks sometimes to consi-
they der, how some Men do let their Tongues run
ood at Random, it makes me marvel. Surely they
into do not think they shall be made to give an
his Account of their offending with their Tongue.
use Did they but think they shall be made to give
ave an Account to him who is ready to judge the *Quick*
so and the *Dead*; surely they would be more Wary
hat of, and have more Regard unto their Tongue.

*The Tongue, saith James, is an unruly Mem-
ber, full of deadly Poison; it setteth on Fire the
whole Frame of Nature, and is set on Fire of Hell,*
Jam. 2. The Tongue, how much Mischief will
it stir up in a very little Time? How many
Blows and Wounds doth it cause? How many
Times doth it (as *James* saith) curse Man? How
oft is the Tongue made the Conveyer of that
hellish Poison that is in the Heart, both to the
dishonour of God, the Hurt of his Neighbours,
and the utter Ruin of his own Soul? And do
you think the Lord will sit still (as I may say)
and let thy Tongue run as it lists, and yet ne-
ver bring you to an Account for the same? No,
stay;

stay; *The Lord will not always keep Silence, he will Reprove thee, and set thy Sins in Order before thine Eyes, O Sinner: Yea, & thy Tongue together with the rest of thy Members, shall be tormented for Sinning. And I say, I am very confident, that tho' this be made Light now, yet the Time is coming, when many poor Souls will rue the Day, that ever they did speak with a Tongue; O, will one say that I should so disregard my Tongue! O, that I, when I said so and so, had before bitten off my Tongue. That I had been born without a Tongue! My Tongue, my Tongue, a little Water to cool my Tongue, for I am tormented in this Flame, even that Flame that my Tongue, together with the rest of my Members, by Sinning, have brought me to. Poor Souls, now will let their Tongues say any thing for a little Profit, for Two-pence, or Three-pence Gain, But, O, what a Grief will this be at that Day when they, together with their Tongue, must smart for that which they by their Tongues have done, while they were in this World. Then you that love your Souls, look to your Tongues, lest you bind your selves down so fast to Hell, with the Sins of your Tongues, that you will never be able to get loose again to all Eternity. For by thy Words thou shalt be condemned, if thou have not a Care of thy Tongue. For I say unto you for every idle Word that Men shall speak, he shall give an Account thereof in the Day of Judgment, Mat. 12. 36.*

Verse 25. *But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy Life-time receivd'st thy good Things, and likewise Lazarus evil Things; but now he is Comforted, and thou art Tormented.*

These

These Words are the Answer to the Request of the Damned. The Verse before (as I told you) is a Discovery of the Desire they have after they depart this World. Here is the answer, *Son, Remember, &c.*

The Answer signifies thus much, That instead of having any Relief or Ease, they are thereby the more tormented, and that by fresh recollections, or by bringing afresh their former ill-spent Life, while in the World, into their Remembrance : *Son remember* thou hadst good Things in thy Life-time ; as much as if he had said, Thou art now sensible what it is to lose thy Soul ; thou art now sensible what it is to put off Repentance ; thou art now sensible that thou hast befooled thy self, in that thou didst spend thy Time in seeking after outward momentary, earthly Things, which thou shouldst have spent in seeking to make Christ Jesus sure to thy Soul ; and now, thro' thy Anguish of Spirit, in the Pains of Hell, thou wouldst enjoy that which in former Time, thou didst make flight of ; but, alas ! thou wert there beguiled, and altogether disappointed, thy crying will now avail thee nothing at all, *This is not the acceptable Time*, 2 Cor. 6 2. This is not a Time to answer the Desires of Damned Reprobates ; if thou hadst cried out in good earnest, while Grace was offered much might have been ; but then thou wert Careless, & didst turn the Forbearance & Goodness of God into Wantonness. Wert thou not told, that those who would not hear the Lord, when he did Call, should not be heard (if they turned away from him) when they did Call, Prov. 1. 24, to 28. *But contrariwise he would laugh*

*Sighs from Hell: Or,
laugh at their Calamity, and mock when their
Fear did come.*

Now therefore instead of expecting the least Drop of Mercy and Favour, call unto thy Mind how thou didst spend those Days, which God did permit thee to live; I say, Remember that in thy Life-time, thou didst behave thy self rebelliously against the Lord, in that thou wert Careless of his Word and Ordinances; yea, and of the Welfare of thine own Soul also; Therefore now I say, instead of expecting or hoping for any Relief, thou must be forced to call to Remembrance thy filthy Ways, and feed upon them to thine everlasting Astonishment and Confusion.

From these Words therefore which say, *Remember, that thou in thy Life time, hadst thy good Things*: There are these Things to be taken Notice of.

1. They that by putting off Repentance, and living in their Sins, lose their Souls; shall instead of having the least Measure of Comfort, when they come into Hell, have their ill-spent Life always very fresh in their Remembrance. While they live here, they can Sin and forget it; but when they depart, they shall have it before them; they shall have a Remembrance, or their Memory notably enlightned, and a clearer, and a continual Sight of all their wicked Practices that they wrought and did, while they were in the World, *Son, Remember, saith he*, then you will be made to remember.

1. How you were born in Sin, and brought up in the same.

2. Remember how thou hadst many a Time the Gospel preached to thee, for taking away of

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of the same by him whom the Gospel doth hold forth.

3. Remember that out of Love to thy Sins and Lusts, thou didst turn thy Back on the Tenders of the same Gospel of good Tidings and Peace.

4. Remember that the Reason why thou didst lose thy Soul, was, because thou didst not close with free Grace, and the Tenders of a loving and free-hearted Jesus Christ.

5. Remember how near thou wast to turning at such, and such a Time, only thou wast willing to give way to thy Lusts, when they wrought, to Drunkards when they called, to Pleasures when they proffered themselves, to the Cares and Incumbrances of the World, which like so many Thorns, did choak that, or those Convictions that were set on thy Heart.

6. Remember how willing thou wast to satisfie thy self with an Hypocrite's Hope, and with a Notion of the Things of God, without the real Power and Life of the same.

7. Remember how thou, when thou wert admonish'd to turn, did put off Turning and Repenting, till another Time.

8. Remember how thou didst Dissemble such a Time, Lye at such a Time, Cheat thy Neighbour such a Time, Mock, Flout, Scoff, Taunt, Hate, Persecute the People of God at such a Time, in such a Place, among such Company.

9. Remember that while others were met together in the Fear of the Lord to seek him, thou wast met with a Company of vain Companions, to Sin against him, whilst the Saints were praying, thou wert a cursing; while they were speaking Good of the Name of God, thou wert

54 *Sighs from Hell: Or,*
speaking Evil of the Saints of God. O, then
thou shalt have a *Scalding hot Remembrance* of
all thy sinful Thoughts, Words & Actions, from
the very first, to the last of them, that ever thou
didst commit in all thy Life-time: Then thou
shalt find that Scripture to be a Truth, (Deut.
28. 65, 66, 67.) *The Lord shall give thee there a*
trembling Heart, and falling Eyes, and Sorrow
of Mind. And thy Life shall hang in doubt before
thee, and thou shalt fear Day & Night, and shalt
have no Assurance of thy Life. In the Morning
thou shalt say, would to God it were Evening:
for the Fear of thine Heart, wherewith thou shalt
Fear, and for the Sight of thine Eyes, which thou
shalt see. Nay, thou shalt find worse Things to thy
Woe, than this Scripture doth manifest. For in-
deed there is no Tongue able to express the Hor-
ror, Terror, Torment, or eternal Misery, that
those poor Souls shall undergo, without the least
Mitigation of Ease, a very great Part of it shall
come from that Quick, full and continual Re-
membrance of their Sins, that they shall have,
And therefore there is much Weight in these
Words. *Son, Remember that thou in thy Life-*
time, hadst thy good Things.

From these Words you see, this is to be o-
bserved, That the Ungodly shall remember, or
have in Remembrance the Mispending their
Lives, *Remember that in thy Life-time, thou hadst*
thy good Things. You may take these Words,
Good Things; either simply for the Things of
this World, which in themselves are called, and
may be called *Good Things*; or else with these
Words namely, (the Things of *this Life*) all
the Pleasures, Delights, Profits, and Vanities,
which the ignorant People of the World do
count

count their good Things, and do very much to cheer themselves therewith. *Soul, Soul, eat, drink, and be merry; for thou hast much Goods laid up for many Years,* Luke 12. 20. Now I say God according to his Power and Wisdom, will make poor Creatures have always in their Minds, a fresh and clear Remembrance of their ill-spent Life; he will say unto them, *Remember, Remember, that in thy Life-time, it was thus and thus with thee, and in thy Life-time, thy Carriage was so and so.*

If Sinners might have their Choice, they would not have their Sins and Transgressions, so much in their Remembrance, as it is evident by their Carriages here in this World; for they will not endure to entertain a serious Thought of their filthy Life, they put far away the evil Day, Amos 6: 3. Ez. 12. 27. but will labour by all Means to put the Thought of it out of their Mind; but there they shall be made to Remember to purpose, and to think continually of their ungodly Deeds. And therefore it is said, that when our Lord Jesus Christ comes to Judgment, it will be to convince the ungodly World of their wicked and ungodly Deeds; Mark, *To convince them,* Jude 14. 15. They will not willingly take Notice of them now. But then they shall hereafter in spite of their Teeth. And also between this and then, those that die out of Christ, shall be made to see, acknowledge, and confess, do what they can, when they lift up their Eyes in Hell, and Remember their Transgressions. God will be a swift Witness against them, Mal. 3. 5. and will say, *Remember what thou didst, in thy Life-time, how thou didst live in thy Life-time, Ah Friend! If*

thou dost not in these Days of Light remember the Days of Darknes, Ec. 11. 8. (the Days of Death, Hell and Judgment) thou shalt be made in the Days of Darknes, Death, Hell, and at the Judgment too, to remember the Days of the Gospel, and how thou didst disregard them too, to thy own Destruction & Everlasting Misery. This is intimated in that of Mat. 25. Remember that thou in thy Life-time hadst thy good Things.

The great God, instead of giving the Ungodly any Ease, will even aggravate their Torments ; first, by slighting their Perplexities, and by telling of them what they must be thinking of : *Remember, saith he, O ye lost Souls that you had your Joy in your Life-time, your Peace in your Life-time, your Comforts, Delights, Ease, Wealth, Health, your Heaven, your Happiness, and your Portion in your Life-time.*

O miserable State ! Thou wilt then be in a sad Condition indeed, when thou shalt see that thou hast had thy good Things, thy best Things, thy pleasant Things ; for that is clearly signified by these Words, *Remember that thou in thy Life-time, hadst thy good Things, or all the good Things thou art like to have.* From whence take Notice of another Truth (tho' it be a dreadful one) which is this ; There are many poor Creatures, who have all their good, sweet & comfortable Things in this Life, or while they are alive in this World : *Remember, saith he, that in thy Life-time, thou hadst thy good Things, Psal. 17. 14.*

The Wicked's good Things will shortly have an End ; they will last no longer with them, than this Life, or their Life-time. That Scripture was not written in vain : *It is like the crackling of Thorns under a Pot, make a little*

The Groans of a Damned Soul.

57

le Blaze for a sudden, a little Heat for a while; but come and consider them by and by, and instead of a comfortable Heat, you will find nothing but a few dead Ashes; and instead of a flaming Fire nothing but a Smell of Smoke.

There is a Time coming, that the Ungodly would be glad of a better Portion, when they shall see the Vanity of this, *that is*, when they shall see what a poor Thing it is, for a Man to have his Portion in this World. 'Tis true, while they are here on this side Hell, they think there is nothing to be compared with Riches, Honours, and Pleasures in this World; which makes them cry out, *Who will shew us any Good*, Psal. 4. 7. That is comparable to the Pleasures, Profits and Glory of this World? But then they shall see there is another Thing that is better and of more Value than ten Thousand Worlds. And seriously Friends, will it not grieve you, trouble, perplex and torment you, when you shall see that you lost Heaven for a little Pleasure and Profit in your Life-time? Certainly it will grieve you, and perplex you exceedingly, to see what a blessed Heaven you left for a Dunghil-world! Oh! that you did but believe this, that you did but consider this, and say within your selves, *What shall I be contented with my Portion in this World?* I say, Consider, while you have Day-light, & Gospel-light, while the Son of God doth hold out Terms of Reconciliation to you, lest you be made to hear such a Voice as this is, *Son, remember that in thy Life-time, thou hadst thy good Things; thy Comforts, thy Joys, thy Ease, thy Peace, & all the Heaven thou art like to have.* O poor Heaven! O short Pleasures! What a

56 *ages from him*: Or,
pitiful thing is it to be left in such a Case? Soul, *consider*, is it not Miserable to lose Heaven for twenty, thirty, or forty Years sinning against God? When thy Life is done, thy Heaven is also done; when Death comes to separate thy Body and Soul, in that Day also thou must have thy Heaven and Happiness separated from thee, and thou from that. Consider these things betimes, lest thou have thy Portion in thy Life-time. *For if in this Life only we have our Portion, we are of all People the most Miserable*, 1 Cor. 15. 9. Again consider, that when other (the Saints) are to receive their good things, then thou hast had thine. When others are to enter into Joy, then thou art to leave and depart from thy Joy. When others are to go to God, thou must go to the Devil. Oh, Miserable! Thou hadst better thou hadst never been born, than to be an Heir to such a Portion; therefore, I say, Have a Care it be not thy Condition.

Remember that thou hadst thy good Things, and Lazarus evil Things.

These Words do not only hold forth the Misery of the Wicked in this Life, but also great Consolation to the Saints; where he saith, *And Lazarus evil Things*; that is, *Lazarus* had his evil things in his Life-time, or when he was in the World.

From whence observe,

1. That the Life of the Saints, so long as they are in the World, is attended with many Evils or Afflictions; which may be discovered to be of divers Natures; as saith the Scripture, *Many are the Troubles of the Righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.*

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2. Take Notice, that the Afflictions or Evils that Accompany the Saints, may continue with them their Life-time, so long as they live in this Vale of Tears; Yea, and they may be Divers, that is, of several sorts; some *outward* some *inward*; and that as long as they shall continue here below, as hath been the Experience of all Saints in all Ages; and this might be proved at large, but I only hint in these Things, and I altogether might enlarge much upon them.

3. The Evils that do accompany the Saints, will continue no longer with 'em than their Life-time; and here indeed lies the Comfort of Believers, the *Lazarus's*, the Saints, they must have all their bitter Cup wrung out to them, in their Life-time: Here must be all their Trouble; here must be all their Grief. *Behold* saith Christ, *the World may rejoyce, but ye shall lament, but your mourning shall* Mark, *it shall be turned into joy*, Joh. 16. 2. You shall lament, you shall be sorrowful, you shall weep in your Life-time, but your sorrow shall be turned into Joy, and your Joy no Man (let him be what he will) no Man shall take away from you. Now if you think, when I say the Saints have all their evil Things in their Life-time, that I mean, they have nothing else but Trouble in this their Life-time, this is your Mistake: For let me tell you, that tho' the Saints have all their evil Things in their Life-time, yet even in their Life-time, they have also *Joy unspeakable, full of Glory, while they look not at the things that are seen, but at the Things that are not seen.* The Joy that the Saints have sometimes in their Heart, by a believing Consideration of

of the good Things to come, when this Life is ended, doth fill them fuller of Joy, than all the Crosses, Troubles, Temptations and Evils that Accompany them in this Life, can fill them with Grief, 2 Cor. 4.

But some Saints may say, *My Troubles are such as are ready to overcome me.* *Answ.* Yet be of good Comfort, they shall last no longer than thy Life-time.

But my Trouble is, I am perplexed with an Heart full of Corruption & Sin, so that I am much hindred in walking with God. *Answ.* 'Tis like so, but thou shalt have these Troubles no longer than thy Life-time.

But I have a cross Husband, and that's a great Grief to me.

Well, but thou shalt be troubled with him no longer than thy Life-time, and therefore be not dismayed, be not discomfited, thou shalt have no Trouble longer than this Life-time.

Art thou troubled with cross Children, cross Relations, cross Neighbours? They shall trouble thee no longer than this Life-time.

Art thou troubled with a cunning Devil; with Unbelief; yea, let it be what it will, thou shalt take thy Farewel of them all, (if thou be a Believer) after thy Life-time is ended. O Excellent! Then God shall wipe away all Tears from your Eyes; there shall be no more Death, nor Sorrow, nor Crying, nor any more Pain; for the former Things are passed away.

But now on the contrary, if thou be not a right and sound Believer: Then though thou shouldst live a thousand Years in this World, and meet with sore Afflictions, be they never so great and grievous, they are nothing to that

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torment, that will come upon thee, both in Soul and Body, after this Life is ended.

I say, be what thou wilt, if thou be founded in Unbelief, or under the first Covenant, thou art sure to smart for it at the Time when thou shalt depart this World. But the Thing to be lamented is, for all this is so sad a Condition to be fallen into, yet, poor Souls are for the most Part senseless of it, yea, so senseless (at times) as tho' there was no such Misery to come hereafter. Because the Lord doth not immediately Strike with the Sword, but doth bear long with his Creature, waiting that he might be gracious: *Therefore, I say, the Hearts of some of the great Men* are wholly set upon it to do Mischief*, Eccl. 8. 11. And that Forbearance and Goodness of God, that one would think should lead them to Repentance; the Devil hardening of them by their continuing in Sin, and by blinding their Eyes, as to the End of God's Forbearance towards them, they are led away with a very hardned & senseless Heart, even until they drop into eternal Destruction.

But poor Hearts, they must have a time in which they must be made sensible of their former Behaviours, when the just Judgments of the Lord shall flame about their Ears, insomuch, that they shall be made to cry out again with Anguish, *I am sorely tormented in this Flame. But now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.*

As if he should say, Now hath God recompenced both *Lazarus* and you, according to what you sought after, while you were in this World; As for your Part, you did neglect the precious Mercy and Goodness of God, you did turn your Back on the Son of God, that came into

into the World to save sinners ; you made a Mock of preaching the Gospel ; you was admonished over and over, to close in with the loving Kindness of the Lord, in his Son Jesus Christ. The Lord let you live twenty, thirty, forty, fifty, sixty Years ; all which Time, you instead of spending it, *to make your Calling and Election sure*, Job 21. 29, 30. did spend it in making of eternal Damnation sure to thy Soul. And also *Lazarus*, he in his Life-time did make it his Business to accept of Grace and Salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. When thou wast in the Ale-house, he frequented the Word preached ; when thou wert jeering at Goodness, *he was sighing for the Sins of the Times*, Ezek. 9. 4. While thou wert Swearing, he was praying : In a Word, while thou wert making sure of eternal Ruin, he by Faith, in the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, was making sure of eternal Salvation. Therefore, *Now he is Comforted, and thou art Tormented.*

Here then you may see, that as the Righteous shall not be always void of Comfort and Blessedness ; so neither shall the Ungodly go always without their Punishment. As sure as God is in Heaven, it will be thus : They must have their several Portions. And therefore, you that are Saints of the Lord, follow on, be not dismay'd, *For as much as you know, that your Labour is not in Vain in the Lord*, 1 Cor. 15. last Verse. Your Portion is eternal Glory. And you that are so loath now to close in with Jesus Christ, & to leave you Sins to follow him ; Your *Day is coming*, Psal. 37. 14. In which you shall know, that your *sweet Morsels of Sin, that you so easily take down*, Job 20. 12, 13, 14. and it

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Scarce troubles you, will have a Time so to Work within you to your eternal Ruin, that you will be in a worse Condition, than if you had ten thousand Devils tormenting you: Nay, you had better have been plucked Limb from Limb a thousand Times. (if it could be) than to be Partakers of this Torment, and will assuredly, without Mercy, lie upon you.

Verse 26. And besides all this, between us and you, there is a great Gulf fixed, so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

THESE Words are still Part of that Answer, that the Souls in Hell shall have for all their Sobblings, Sighings, grievous Cries, Tears and Desires, that they have, to be released out of those intolerable Pains they feel, and are perplexed with. And, O, methinks the Words at the first View, if rightly considered; are enough to make any hard-hearted Sinner in the World to fall down dead. The Verse I last spake to, was, and is a very terrible One, and aggravates the Torments of poor Sinners wonderfully. Where he saith, *Remember that thou in thy Life-time hadst thy good Things, and Lazarus his evil Things, &c.* I say, these Words are very terrible to those poor Souls that die out of Christ. But these latter Words do much more hold out their Sorrow. They were spoken as to the present Condition, then upon the Sinner: These do not only back the Former, but do yet further aggravate their Misery, holding forth that which will be more intolerable: The former Verses is enough to smite any Sinner into a Swoon, but this is to make them fall

fall down dead. Where he saith, *And besides all this* : there is still something to aggravate thy Misery, yet far more abundantly I shall briefly speak to the Words, as they have Relation to the terror spoken of in the Verses before. As if he had said, thou thinkest the present State unsupportable, it makes thee sob and sigh, it makes thee to rue the time that ever thou wert born : Now thou findest the want of Mercy ; now thou wouldst leap at the least Dram of it ; now thou seekest what it is to slight the tenders of the Grace of God ; now it makes thee to sob, sigh and roar exceedingly, for the Anguish that thou art in. *But besides all this*, I have other things to tell thee of, that will break thine Heart indeed. Thou art now depriv'd of a Being in the World ; thou art depriv'd of hearing the Gospel ; the Devil hath been too hard for thee, and hath made thee miss of Heaven ; thou art now in Hell among an innumerable Company of Devils, and all thy sins beset thee round ; thou art all over wrapped in Flames, and canst not have one Drop of Water to give thee any Ease ; thou criest in Vain, for nothing will be granted ; thou seekest the Saints in Heaven, which is no small trouble to thy Damned Soul ; thou seekest that neither God nor Christ takes any Care to ease thee, or speak any Comfort unto thee ; *But besides all this*, there thou art like to lye ; never think of any Ease ; never look for any Comfort ; Repentance now will do thee no Good, the time is past, and can never be called again ; look what thou hast now, thou must have for ever.

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thine Heart asunder ; *But besides all this*, there lye and swim in Flames for ever. These Words, *Besides all this*, are terrible Words indeed. I will give you the scope of them in a similitude. Set Case you should take a man and tie him to a Stake, and with red hot Pincers, pinch off his Flesh by little Pieces, for two or three Years together, and at last when the poor Man cries out for Ease and Help, the Tormentors answer, Nay, *But besides all this*, you must be handled worse.

We will serve you thus these twenty Years together, and after that, we will fill your mangled Body full of scalding Lead ; or run you thro' with a red-hot Spit ; would not this be lamentable ? Yet this is but a Flea-biting, to the Sorrow of those that go to Hell ; for if a Man were serv'd so, there would e're it be long be an End of him. But he that goes to Hell, shall suffer ten thousand times worse Torments than these, and yet shall never be quite Dead under them. There they shall be Whining, Pining, Weeping, Mourning, even Tormented without Ease ; and yet never dissolved into Nothing ; if the biggest Devil in Hell might pull thee all to pieces, and rend thee as small as Dust, and dissolve thee into Nothing, thou wouldst count this a Mercy. But there thou must lye and fry, scorch, and broil, and burn for ever ; For ever, that is a long while, and yet it must be so long. *Depart from me*, saith Christ, *into everlasting Fire*, into the Fire that burns for ever, *prepared for the Devil and his Angels*, Matth. 25. 41. Oh, thou that wert loath to foul thy Foot, if it were but Dirty, or did but rain ; thou that wert loath to come

out of the Chimney-corner, if the Wind did but blow, a little Cold ; and wert loath to go half a Mile, yea, half a Furlong to hear the Word of God, if it were but a little Dark ; thou that wert loath to leave a few vain Companions to edify thy Soul ; thou shalt have Fire enough, thou shalt have Night enough, and evil Company enough, thy Belly full if thou Miss of Jesus Christ ; and *besides all this*, thou shalt have them for Ever, and for Ever.

O, thou that dost spend whole Nights in Carding and Dicing, in Rioting and Wantonness ; thou that countest it a brave Thing to swear as fast as the bravest, to spend with the greatest Spend-thrift in the Country : thou that lovest to Sin in a Corner, when no Body sees thee ! O, thou that for By-ends dost carry on an Hypocrites Profession, because thou wouldest be counted some Body among the Children of God, but art an Enemy to the Things of Christ in thine Heart ; thou that dost satisfy thy self, either with Sins, or a bare Profession of Godliness, thy Soul will fall into extream Torment and Anguish, so soon as ever thou dost depart this World, and there thou shalt be Weeping and Gnashing thy Teeth, *Mat. 18. 11, 12. And besides all this*, thou art never like to have any Ease or Remedy, never look for any Deliverance, thou shalt die in thy Sins, & be tormented as many Years as there are Stars in the Firmament, or Sands on the Sea-Shore ; and *besides all this*, thou must abide for ever.

And besides all this, Between us and you there is a great Gulf fixed, so that they which would pass from hence to you, cannot ; neither can they come to us, that would come from thence. There

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a great Gulf. You will say what is that? *Ans^w.* It is a nice Question; therefore, first seek thou, rather to enter in at the strait Gate, than curiously to enquire what the Gulf is.

But 2dly, If thou wouldst needs know, if thou do fall short of Heaven, thou wilt find it this, namely, *The Everlasting Decree of God*; that is, There is a Decree gone forth from God, that those who fall short of Heaven in this World, God is resolv'd they shall never enjoy it in the World to come. And thou wilt find this Gulf so deep, that thou shalt never be able to wade thro' it as long as Eternity lasts. As Christ saith, *Agree with thine Adversary quickly, while thou art in the Way with him, lest he hale thee to the Judge, & the Judge deliver thee to the Officer, & thou be cast into Prison: I tell thee, thou shalt in no wise come out thence, (there is the Gulf) the Decree; thou shalt not depart thence till thou hast paid the uttermost Farthing, or very last Mite,* Luke 12. 58, 59. These Words therefore, *there is a great Gulf fixed*, I do understand to be the everlasting Decree of God: God hath decreed, that those who go to Heaven, shall never go from thence again into a worse Place; and also those that go to Hell, and would not come out, they shall not come out thence again. And Friend, this is such a Gulf, so fixed by him, that cannot lie, that thou wilt find it so, which Way so ever thou goest, whither it be to Heaven or Hell. Here therefore thou seest how secure God will make those who die in the Faith; God will keep them in Heaven; but those that die in their Sins, God will throw them into Hell, and keep them there; so that they that would go from Heaven to Hell, cannot, neither can

they come from Hell that would go to Heaven: Mark, he doth not say, they would not: For O, how fain would these who have lost their Souls for a Lust, for Two-pence, for a Jugg of Ale, for a Strumpet, for this World come out of that hot scalding fiery Furnace of God's Eternal Vengeance, if they might; but here is their Misery, they that would come from you to us, that is from Heaven to Hell, cannot, they must not, they shall not; they cannot, God hath decreed it, and is resolv'd the contrary; here therefore lies the Misery, not so much as they are in Hell, but there must lye for ever and ever. Therefore if thy Heart would at any Time tempt thee to Sin against God, cry out, No; for then I must go to Hell, and lie there for ever, if the Drunkards, Swearers, Lyars, and Hypocrites did but take this Doctrine soundly down, it would make them tremble, when they think of Sinning. But poor Souls, *Now they will make a Mock of Sin*, Prov. 14. 9. and play with it as a Child doth play with a Rattle: But the Time is coming, that these Rattles that now they play with, will make such a Noise in their Ears and Consciences, that they shall find, that if all the Devils in Hell were yelling at their Heels, the Noise would not be comparable to it, Numb. 32. 23. Friend, *Thy Sins, as so many Blood-bounds, will first haunt thee out, and then take thee and bind thee, and hold thee down for ever*, Prov. 5. 22. They will gripe thee, and gnaw thee as if thou hadst a Net of Poisonous Serpents in thy Bowels, Job 20. 14. and this will not be for a Time, but as I have said, for ever, for ever, for ever.

Verse 27. *Then he said, I pray thee therefore, Father, that thou wouldst send him to my Father's House.*

THE Verses before I told you, were spoken partly to hold forth a Desire, that the Damned have to be freed of their endless Misery. Now this Verse still holds forth the Cries of those poor Souls very Vehement, they would very fain have something granted to them, but it will not be ; as will more clearly appear afterward.

(Then he said, I pray thee therefore Father, &c.) as if he should say, Seeing I have brought myself into a miserable Condition, that God will not regard me, that my exceeding loud and bitter Cries will not be heard for my self ; seeing I must not be admitted to have so much as one Drop of cold Water, nor the least Help from the poorest Saints.

And seeing, *besides all this*, here my Soul must lye to all Eternity, broiling and frying ; seeing I must, whether I will or no, undergo the Hand of eternal Vengeance, and the Rebukes of devouring Fire ; seeing my State is such, that I would not wish a Dog in my Condition, *Send him to my Father's House.* It is worthy to be taken Notice of (again) who it is he desired to be sent, namely, *Lazarus*. O, Friend, see here how the stout Hearts, and Stomachs of poor Creatures will be humbled, (as I said before) they will be so brought down, that those Things which they disdain'd and made light of in this World, they would be glad of in the Life to come: He who by this Man was so slighted, as that he thought it a Dishonour, that

he should eat with the Dogs of his Flock ; what shall I regard *Lazarus*, scrubbed, beggarly *Lazarus* ? What shall I so far Dishonour my fair, sumptuous, and gay House, with such a Scabbed, Creep-hedge as he ? No, I scorn he should be entertain'd under my Roof Thus in his Life-time, while he was in his Bravery ; but now he is come into another World, now he is parted from his Pleasures, now he sees his fine House, his dainty Dishes, his rich Neighbours and Companions are parted asunder ; now he finds instead of Pleasures, Torments, instead of Joys, Heaviness ; instead of Heaven, Hell ; instead of the Pleasures of Sin, the Horror and Guilt of Sin ; O, now *send Lazarus* !

Lazarus it may be might have done him some Good, if he might have been entertain'd in Time past, and might have persuaded him, at least not to have gone on so grievously Wicked, but he flights him, will not regard him, he is resolv'd to disown him, tho' he lose his Soul for so doing. Ay, but now *send Lazarus*, if not to me, to my Father's House, and let him tell them from me, that if they run on in Sin ; as I have done, they must and shall receive the same Wages that I have received.

Take Notice of this, you that are Despisers of the least of the *Lazarus's* of our Lord Jesus Christ ; it may be now you are loath to receive these little Ones of his, because they are not Gentlemen, because they cannot with *Pontius Pilate* speak *Hebrew, Greek and Latin*. Nay, they must not, shall not speak to them, to admonish them, and all because of this.

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thing, nay, they are now desir'd to hear and receive it. Tho' now they will not own, regard and embrace these Christian Proffers of the Glorious Truth of Jesus, because they come out of some of the basest earthen Vessels, 1 Cor. 1. 26 yet the Time is coming when they shall both Sigh and Cry, *Send him to my Father's House.* I say, remember this, ye that *despise the Days of small Things*; the Time is coming when you would be glad, if you might enjoy from God, from Christ, or his Saints, *one Drop of cold Water*, tho' now you are unwilling to receive the Glorious Distilling Drops of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Again, See here the lamentable State they are in that go to Hell from their Fathers, Mothers, Sisters, Brothers, &c. While they are in this World, Men delight to set their Children ill Examples. And also Children love to follow the wicked Steps of their ungodly Parents; but when they depart this Life, and drop down into Hell, and find themselves in irrecoverable Misery, then they cry, *Send some Body to my Father's House, to my Brother's House.* Tell them my State is miserable; tell them I am undone for ever, and tell them also that if they will be walking in these ungodly Steps wherein I left them, they will assuredly fall into this Place of Torments.

(*I pray thee send him to my Father's House*) Ah, Friends and Neighbours, it is like you little think of this, that some of your Friends and Relations are crying out in Hell, *Lord, send some Body to my Father's House, to preach the Gospel to them, lest they come also into these Torments.*

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Here, Men while they live, can willingly walk together in the Way of Sin, and when they are parted by Death, they that are Living, seldom or never consider of the sad Condition, that they that are Dead are Descended into. But ye ungodly Fathers, how are your ungodly Children roaring now in Hell? And your ungodly Parents that lived and died ungodly, now in the Pains of Hell also? And one Drunkard is singing on the Ale-bench, & another roaring under the Wrath of God, saying, O, that I was with him, how would I Rebuke him, and persuade him by all means, to leave off these evil Courses. O that they did but consider what I now suffer for Pride, Covetousness, Drunkenness, Lying, Swearing, Stealing, Whoring, and the like. Oh! did but they feel the thousandth Part thereof, it would make them look about them, and not buy Sin at so dear a Rate as I have done; even with loss of my precious Soul.

(*Send him to my Father's House.*) Not to my Father, but to my *Father's House*. It may be there's ungodly Children, there's ungodly Servants, wallowing in their Ungodliness; send him therefore to my *Father's House*. It is like they are still the same that I left them; I left them Wicked, and they are Wicked still; I left them Slighters of the Gospel, Saints and Ways of God, I find they do it still; *send him to my Father's House*, it is like there is but a little between them and the Place where I am, send him to Day, before to Morrow, *lest they come into the same Place of Torment*. I pray thee, thou wouldst send him. I beg it on my bended Knees with Crying, and with Tears, in
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the Agony of my Soul. It may be they will not Consider, if they do not send him: I left them sottish enough, hardned as well as I; they have the same Devil to tempt them, *I pray thee therefore, that thou wouldst send him to my Father's House*; make no delay, lest they lose their Souls, lest they come thither; if they do, they are like never to return again. O little do they think, how easily they may lose their Souls, they are apt to think that their Condition to be as good as the best, as I once thro' Ignorance did; but send him, send him without delay, *lest they come into this Place of Torment*. O, that thou wouldst give him a Commission, do thou send him thy self; the Time was, when I, together with them, slighted those that were sent of God; tho' we could not deny but that he spake the Word of God and was sent of him, as our Conscience told us; yet we preferred the Calls of Men, before the Calls of God: For tho' they had the one, yet because they had not the other in that Antichristian way which we thought meet, we could not, would not, neither hear him our selves, nor yet give Consent that others should. But now a Call from God is worth all. Do *(Thou) therefore send him to my Father's House*.

The Time was, when we did not like it, except it might be preached in the Synagogue; we thought it a low thing to Preach and Pray together in Houses: We are too High-spirited too Superstitious; the Gospel would not down with us, unless we had it in such a Place, by such a Man; no, nor then neither effectually: But now, Oh, that I was to live in the World again; and might have that Privilege, to have
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some Acquaintance with blessed *Lazarus*, some Familiarity with that *Holy Man* ; what Attendance would I give unto his *wholesome Words* ? How would I effect this Doctrine, and close in with it ? How would I square my Life thereby ? Now (therefore) as it is better to hear the Gospel under a Hedge, than sit roaring in a Tavern ; it is better to welcome God's begging *Lazarus's*, than the wicked Companions of this World. It is better to receive a Saint, in the Name of a Saint, a *Disciple in the Name of a Disciple*, Luk. 10. 16. than to do as I have done. Oh ! it is better to receive a Child of God, that can by Experience deliver the Things of God, his free Love, his tender Grace, his rich Forbearance, and also the Misery of Man, if without it, than to be daubed up with *untempered Mortar*, Ezek. 13. Oh ! I may curse the Day that ever I gave way to the Flatteries and Fawnings of a Company of carnal Men, but this my Repentance is too late ; I should have look'd about me sooner, if I would have been sav'd from this woful Place. Therefore send him, not only to the Town I liv'd in, and unto some of my Acquaintance, but to my *Father's House*.

In my Life time, I did not care to hear that Word that cut me most, and shew'd me mine Estate aright.

I was vexed to hear my Sins mention'd, and laid to my Charge ; I loved him best that deceived me most, that said, *Peace, Peace, when there was no such Thing*, Jer. 5. 30, 31. But now, Oh, that I had been soundly told of it ! Oh ! that it had pierced both my Ears and Heart, and had stuck so fast, that nothing could have

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cured me, saving the Blood of Christ! It is better to be dealt plainly with, than that we should be deceiv'd; they had better see their lost Condition in the World, than stay while they be damn'd, as I have done: Therefore send *Lazarus*, send him to my Father's House: Let him go and say, I saw your Son, your Brother, in Hell weeping & wailing, & gnashing his Teeth: Let him bear them down in it, and tell them plainly, it is so, and that they shall see their everlasting Misery, if they have not especial Care. Send him to my Father's House.

Verse 28. *For I have five Brethren, that he may testifie unto them, lest they also come into this Place of Torment.*

THESE Words are (if I may so say) a Reason given by those in Hell, why they are restless & do cry so loud, it is that their Companions might be delivered from those intolerable Torments, which they must and shall undergo, if they fall short of everlasting Life by Jesus Christ. Send him to my Father's House; for I have five Brethren, &c. Tho' while they liv'd among them in the World, they were not sensible of their Ruin, yet now they are passed out of the World, and do partake of that which before they were warned of; they can, I say, then cry out, now I find that to be true indeed, which was once and again told and declared to me, that it would certainly come to pass.

(*For I have five Brethren.*) Here you may see that there may be, and are, whole Households in a damnable State and Condition, as our Lord Jesus doth by this signifie. Send him to my Father's House, for they are in one State, I left

left all my Brethren in a pitiful Case. People while they live here, cannot endure to hear that they should be all in a miserable Condition ; but when they are under the Wrath of God, hey see it, they know it, and are very sure of it ; for they themselves, when they were in the World lived as they do, but they fell short of Heaven, and therefore if they go on, so shall they *Obt therefore send quickly to my Father's House, for all the House is in an undone Condition, and must be Damned if they continue so*

The Thing observable is this, namely, That those that are in Hell, do not desire that their Companions should come thither ; nay, rather saith he ; *Send him to my Father's House, and let him testifie to them that are therein, lest they also come, &c.*

Quest But some may say, *What should be the Reason, that the Damned should desire not to have their Companions come into the same Condition that they are fallen into, but rather that they might be kept from it, and escape that dreadful State ?*

Ans^r. I do believe there is scarce so much Love in any of the Damned in Hell, as really to desire the Salvation of any. But in that there is any Desire in them that are damned, that their Friends and Relations should not come into that Place of Torment : It appears to me, to be rather for their own Ease, than for their Neighbour's Good ; for let me tell you this, I do believe, that it will aggravate the Grief and Horror of them, to see their ungodly Neighbours in the like Destruction with them : For where the Ungodly do live and die, and descend into the Pit together, the one is rather a Vexation to the other, than any thing

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thing else. And it must needs be so, because there are no ungodly People, that do live *Ungodly together*, but they do learn ill Enamples one of another, as thus, If there be one live in the Town, that is very Expert and Cunning for the World, why now the rest that are of the same Mind with him, they will labour to imitate & follow his Steps, this is commonly seen.

Again, If there be one given to Drunkenness, others of the Town thro' his Means, run the more into that Sin with him, and do accustom themselves the more unto it, because of his inciting them, and also by setting such an ill Example before them. And so if there be any addicted to Pride, and must needs be in all the newest Fashions, how do their Example provoke others to love and follow the same Vanity ! spending that upon their Lusts, which would relieve their own and others Want. Also if there be any given to Jestings, Scoffings, Lying, Whoring, Back-biting, Junketing, Wantonness, or any other Sin: they that are most Expert in these Things, do oft-times intangle others; that peradventure would not have been so Vile as now they are, had they not had such an Example, and hence they are called Corrupters, *Isa. i. 4.*

Now these their Doings, will exceedingly Aggravate the *Condemnation* of one another. He that did set his Neighbour an ill Example, and thereby caused him to walk in Sin: he will be found the Cause of his Friend's Destruction, in so much, that he will have to answer for his own Sin, & for a great Part of his Neighbour's too, which will still add to their Destruction; as the Scripture in *Ezekiel* sheweth, where speaking of the Watchman that should give the People Warning; if he

28 *Sighs from Hell: Or,*
do not, tho' the man die in his Sins, yet *his Blood*
should be required at the watchmans hand, Ezek. 33.

So here, let me tell thee, that if thou shouldst be such a one, as by thy *Conversation & Practices* shall be a Trap & a Stumbling block to cause thy Neighbour to fall into eternal Ruin; tho' he be damned for his own Sin; yet God may, nay, he will charge thee as being guilty of his Blood, in that thou didst not content thy self to keep from Heaven thy self, but didst also by thy filthy Conversation keep away others, & cause them to fall with thee. O therefore, will not this aggravate thy Torment? Yea, if thou shouldst die and go to Hell before thy Neighbours or Companions, besides the Guilt of thine own Sins, thou wouldst be so loaden with the Fear of the Damnation of others to be laid to thy Charge, that thou wouldst cry out, *O send one from the Dead, to this Companion, and that Companion, with whom I had Society in my Life-time, for I see my cursed Carriage will be one Cause of his Condemnation, if he fall short of Glory.*

I left him living in foul and hainous Offences: But I was one of the first Instruments to bring him to them. Oh! I shall be guilty both of my own, and his Damnation too! O, that he might be kept out hence, lest my Torment be aggravated by his coming hither.

For where ungodly People do dwell together, they being a Snare and Stumbling-block one to another by their Practice, they must be a Torment one to another, and an Aggravation of each others Damnation. *O cursed be thy Face, saith one, that ever I set mine Eyes on thee: It was long of thee: I may thank thee: It was thee that did intice me, and ensnare me:*

The Groans of a Damned Soul.

79

It was your filthy Conversation that was a Stumbling-block to me: It was your Covetousness, it was your Pride, your haunting the Ale-house, your Gaming and Whoring: It was long of you, that I fell short of Life: If you had set me a good Example, as you set me an ill One, it may be I might have done better than now I do: But I learned of you, I followed your Steps; I took Counsel of you. O that I had never seen your Face! O that thou hadst never been born to do my Soul this wrong, as you have done. O, saith the other: And I may as much blame you, for you do not remember how at such a Time and at such a Time you drew me out; & drew me away, and asked me if I would go with you, when I was going about other Business, about my Calling; but you called me away, you sent for me, you are as much in the Fault as I; tho' I were Covetous, you were Proud: And if you learned Covetousness of me, I learned Pride and Drunkenness of you, tho' I learned you to Cheat, you learned me to Whore, to Lye, to Scoff at Goodness. Tho' I base Wretch did stumble you in some things, you did as much stumble me in others. I can blame you, as you blame me; and if I have to answer for some of your most filthy Actions, you have to answer for some of mine: I would you had not come hither, the very Looks of you do wound my Soul, by bringing my Sins afresh into my Mind, the Time when, the Manner how, the Place where, the Persons with whom: It was with you, you! Grief to my Soul! Since I could not shun thy Company there, O, that I had been without thy Company here?

I say therefore for these that have sinned together, to go to Hell together, it will very much

So *Signs from Hell* : Or,
much Perplex and Torment them both ; there-
fore I judge this one Reason, why they that
are in Hell do desire, that their Friends, or
Companions do not come thither into the same
Place of Torment that they are in. And there-
fore where Christ saith, that these Damned
Souls cry out, *Send to our Companions, that they
may be warned and commanded to look to them-
selves.* O, *send to my five Brethren* ! It is because
they would not have their own Torments
heightned by their Company ; and a Sense, yea
a continual Sense of their Sins, which they did
cause them to commit, when they were in the
World with them. For I do believe that the
very Looks of those that have been beguiled
of their Fellows, I say, their very Looks will
be a Torment to them : For thereby will the
Remembrance of their own Sins be kept (if
possible) the fresher on their Consciences,
which they committed with them ; and also
they will wonderfully have the Guilt of the
other Sins upon them, in that they were part-
ly the Cause of his committing them, being In-
struments in the Hands of the Devil, to draw
them in too. And therefore lest this come to
pass, *I pray thee send him to my Father's House.*
For if they might not come hither, Peradven-
ture my Torment might have some Mitigation ;
that is, If they might be saved, then their Sins
will be pardoned, and not so heavily charged on
my Soul. But if they do fall into the same place
where I am, the Sins that I have caused them
to commit will lie so heavy, not only on their
Souls, but also on mine, that they sink me in-
to eternal Misery, deeper and deeper, O there-
fore *send him to my Father's House, to my five
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Brethren, and let him testifie to them, lest they come into this Place of Torment.

These Words being thus understood : What a Condition doth it shew them to be in then, that now much Delight in being the very Ringleaders of their Companions into Sins of all Sorts whatsoever.

While Men live here if they can be counted the cunningest in Cheating, the boldest for Lying, the archest for Whoring, subtillest for Coveting, and getting the World : If they can but cunningly Defraud, Undermine, Cross and Anger their Neighboturs; yea, & hinder them from the Means of Grace, the Gospel of Christ, they glory in it, take a Pride in't, & think themselves pretty well at Ease, and their Minds are somewhat quiet, being beguiled with Sin.

But Friend, when thou hast lost this Life, or dost begin to lift up thine Eyes in Hell, and seest what thy Sins have brought thee to ; and not only so, but that thou by thy filthy Sins, didst cause others (Devil-like) to fall into the same Condemnation with thee : And that one of the Reasons of their Damnation was this, that thou didst lead them to the Commission of those wicked Practices of this World, and the Lusts thereof. Then, Oh, that some Body would stop them from coming, lest they also come into this Place of Torment, & be damn'd as I am. How will it torment me ? *Balaam* could not be contented to be damned himself, but also he must by his Wickedness cause others to stumble and fall. The *Scribes* and *Pharisees*, could not be content to keep out of Heaven themselves, but they must labour to keep out others too. Therefore theirs is the greater

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Damnation.

Damnation. The Deceiver cannot be content to be deceived himself, but he must labour to deceive others also. The Drunkard cannot be content to go Hell for his Sins, but he must labour to cause others to fall into the same Furnace with him. But look to your selves, for here will be Damnation upon Damnation, damned for thy own Sins, and damned for thy being Partakers with others in their Sins; and damned for being Guilty of the Damnation of others. O, how will the Drunkards cry, for leading their Neighbours into Drunkenness? How will the covetous Person howl, for setting his Neighbour, his Friend, his Brother, his Children and Relations so wicked an Example, by which he hath not only wronged his own Soul, but also the Souls of others. The Liar, by lying, learned others to lie, the Swearer learned others to swear; the Whoremonger learned others to whore.

Now all these with others of the like Sort, will be guilty, not only of their own Damnation, but of others. I tell you, that some Men have so much been the Authors of the Damnation of others, that I am ready to think, that the Damnation of others will trouble them, as much as their own Damnation. Some Men, (it is to be feared) at the Day of Judgment, will be found to be the Authors of destroying whole Nations. How many Souls do you think *Balaam*, with his Deceit will have to answer for? How many *Mahomet*? How many the *Pharisees*, that hired the Soldiers to say the *Disciples stole away Jesus*, Mat. 28. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. And by that Means, stumbled their Brethren to this Day: And was one Means of binding them

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from believing the Things of God and Jesus Christ, and so the Cause of the Damnation of their Brethren to this very Day.

How many poor Souls hath *Bonner* to answer for think you? And several filthy blind Priests; How many Souls have they been the Means of destroying by their Ignorance and Corrupt Doctrine? Preaching, that was no better for their Souls, than Ratsbane to the Body, for filthy Lucre's sake. They shall see, that they, many of them, it is to be feared, will have whole Towns to answer for; whole Cities to answer for. Ah, Friend, I tell thee, thou that hast taken in Hand to preach to People, it may be thou hast taken in Hand thou dost not know what; will it not grieve thee to see thy whole Parish come bellowing after thee to Hell, crying out, This we may thank thee for, this is long of thee, thou didst not teach us the Truth; thou didst lead us away with Fables, thou wast afraid to tell us of our Sins, lest we should not put Meat fast enough in thy Mouth. O cursed Wretch, that ever thou shouldest beguile us thus, deceive us thus, flatter us thus! We would have gone out to hear the Word Abroad, but thou didst reprove us; and also tell us, That that which we saw now is the Way of God, was Heresy, and a deceitful Doctrine; and was not contented (blind Guide as thou wert) to fall into the Ditch thy self, but hast also led us there with thee.

I say, look to thy self, lest thou cry out when it is too late, *Send Lazarus to my People, my Friends, my Children, my Congregation, to whom I preached & beguiled, thro' my Folly. Send him to the Town in which I did preach last, lest I be the Cause of their Damnation. Send him to my Friends*
from

from whence I came, lest I be made to answer for their Souls, and my own too, Ezek. 33. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

O send him therefore, and let him tell them, and testify unto them, lest they also come into this Place of Torment. Consider ye that thus live in the World, while you are in the Land of the Living, lest you fall into this Condition. Set case thou shouldst by thy Carriage destroy but a Soul, but one poor Soul, by one of thy Carriages or Actions, by thy sinful Works, consider it now, I say, lest thou be forc'd to cry, *I pray thee therefore that thou wouldst send him to my Father's House, for I have five Brethren, that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this Place of Torment.*

If so, then I shall not only say to the blind Guides, look to yourselves, and shut out others: No, but this doth reach unto all those that do not only keep Souls from Heaven, by Preaching, and the like; but speaks forth the Doom of those that shall any Ways be instrumental to hinder others from closing in with Jesus Christ. O, what red Lines will those be against all these rich ungodly Landlords, that so keep under their poor Tenants, that they dare not go out to hear the Word, for fear their Rent should be rais'd, or they turned out of their Houses? What sayest thou Landlord, will it not cut thy Soul, when thou shalt see, that thou couldst not be content to miss of Heaven thy self, but thou must labour to hinder others also? Will it not give thee an eternal Wound in thy Heart, both at Death and Judgment, to be accused of the Ruin of thy Neighbour's Soul, thy Servant's Soul, thy Wife's Soul, together with the Ruin of thy own? Think on this you drunken, proud,

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roud, rich and scornful Landlords, think on these mad brain'd blasphemous Husbands, that are against the godly and chaste Conversation of your Wives; also you that hold your Servants too hard to it, that you will not spare them Time to hear the Word, unless it be where, and when your Lusts will let you. If you love your own Souls, your Tenants Souls, your Wive's Souls, your Servants Souls, your Childrens Souls: If you would not cry, if you would not howl, if you would not bear the Burden of the Ruin of others for ever; then I beseech you, consider this doleful Story, and labour to avoid the Soul-killing Torment that this poor Wretch groans under, when he saith, *I pray thee therefore, that thou wouldst send him to my Father's House: For I have five Brethren, that he may testify.* Mark, that he may testify unto them, lest they also come unto this Place of Torment.

These Words have still something more in them, than I have observed from them; there are one or two Things more that I shall briefly touch upon, and therefore, Mark, he saith, *That he may testify unto them, &c.* Mark, I pray you, and take Notice of the Word *Testify*. He doth not say, and let him go unto them, or speak with, or tell them such & such Things. No, *but let him testify*, or Affirm it constantly, in case any should oppose it. *Let him testify to them.* It is the same Word the Scripture useth to set the Vehemency of Christ's telling of his Disciples of him that should betray him. *And he testified saying, One of you shall betray me.* And he testified, that is, he spake it so, as to dash or overcome any that should have said, it shall not be. It is a Word that signifies, that in

in Case any should oppose the Thing spoken of, yet that Party speaking should still continue constant in his Saying. *And he commands 'em to Preach and to Testify, that it is he that was ordain'd of God to be Judge of Quick & Dead. To testifie, Mark, that is, to be constant, irresistible, undaunted, in Case it should be opposed and objected against. So here let him testifie to them, lest they come into this Place of Torment.*

From whence observe, That it is not an easie Matter to persuade them who are in their Sins, alive in this World, that they must, and shall be damn'd if they turn not, and be converted to God. *Let him testifie to them, let him speak confidently, tho' they frown upon him, or dislike his Way of speaking. And how is this Truth verified and clear'd by the Carriages of almost all Men now in the World, toward them that do preach the Gospel; and shew their own miserable State plainly to them, if they close not with it? If a man do but indeed labour to convince Sinners of their Sins, and lost Condition by Nature, tho' they must be damn'd if they live and die in that Condition; Oh, how angry are they at it! Look how he Judges, says they; hark, how he Condemns us; he tells us we must be Damn'd if we live and die in this State. We are offended at him, we cannot abide to hear him, or any such as he; we will believe none of them all, but go on the Way we are a going; Forbear, why shouldst thou be smitten, said the ungodly King to the Prophet, when he told him of his Sins, 2 Chron. 25.15,16.*

I say, tell the Drunkard he must be damn'd, if he leaves not his *Drunkennes*; the Swearer, Lyar

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Lyar, Cheater, Thief, Covetous, Railers, or any ungodly Persons, they must and shall lye in Hell for it, if they dye in this Condition; they will not believe you, nor credit you.

Again, tell others that there are many in Hell, that have lived and died in their Conditions, and so they are like to be, if they convert not to Jesus Christ, and be found in him; or that there are others that are more civil and sober Men, who, (although we know that their Civility will not save them) if we do but tell them plainly of the Emptiness and Unprofitableness of that, as to the saving of their Souls, and that God will not accept them, nor love them, notwithstanding these things, and that if they intend to be saved, they must be better provided, than with such Righteousness as this, they will either sling away, or come to hear no more, or else if they come, they will bring such *Prejudice* with them in their Hearts, *That the Word Preaching shall not profit them, it being mixed not with Faith, but with Prejudice in'em that hear it,* Heb. 4. 1, 2. Nay, they will some of them be so full of Anger, that they will break out and call, even those that speak the Truth, *Hereticks*; yea, and kill them, Luk. 4. 25, 26, 37, 28, 29. And why so? Because they tell them, That if they live in their Sins, that will damn them; yet if they run and live a righteous Life, according to the holy, just, and good Law of God that will save them. Yea, because we tell them plainly, that unless they leave their Sins and unrighteousness too, and close in with a naked Jesus Christ, his Blood and Merits and what he hath done, and is now doing for Sinners, they cannot be saved; and unless they

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do eat the Flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his Blood, they have no Life abiding in them; they grapple presently, and are offended at it (as the *Jews* with Christ, for speaking the same Thing to them, *Joh. 6. 53, 60.*) and sling away themselves, their Souls and all; by quarrelling against the Doctrine of the Son of God, as indeed they do, tho' they do not believe they do, and therefore he that is a Preacher of the Word, had need not only tell 'em, *but testify to them* again and again, that their Sins, if they continue in them, will Damn them and Damn them again. And tell them again, their living honestly according to the Law, the paying every one their own, their living quietly with their Neighbours, their giving to the Poor, their Notion of the Gospel, and saying, they do believe in Christ, will do them no Good at the general Day of Judgment. Ah, Friends! How many of you are there at this very Day, that have been told once, and again of your lost undone Condition, because you want the right, real and saving Work of God upon your Souls? I say, hath not this been told you, yea, testified unto you from Time to Time, that your State is miserable, that yet you are never the better, but do still stand where you did, some in an open *ungodly* Life, and some drowned in a self-conceited Holiness of Christianity? Therefore, for God's sake, if you love your Souls, consider, and beg of God for Jesus Christ's sake, that he would work such a Work of Grace in your Hearts, and give you such a Faith in his Son Jesus Christ, that you may not only have rest here, as you think, not only think your State safe while you live here, as you may

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be safe indeed not only here, but also when you are gone, lest you do cry, in the Anguish and Perplexity of your Souls: Send one to my Companions that have been beguiled by Satan, as I have been, and so by going on, come into this Place of Torment, as I have done.

Again, one Thing more is to be observed from these Words, *Let him testify unto them, lest they come into this Place of Torment.*

Mark, lest they come in, as if he had said, or else they will come into this Place of Torment, as sure as I am here. From whence observe, That tho' some Souls for Sin do fall into the bottomless Pit of Hell, before their Fellows, because they depart this World before them, yet the others abiding in the same Course, are as sure to go to the same Place, as if they were there already. How so? Because they are all Condemned together, they have all fallen under the same Law, and have all offended the same Justice, and must for certain, if they die in that Condition, drink as deep, if not deeper, of the same Destruction. Mark, I pray you what the Scriptures say, *he that believeth not, is condemned already*, John 3. 18.

He is condemned as well as they, having broken the same Law with them; if so, then what hinders, but they will partake of the same Destruction with them? Only the one hath not the Law yet so executed upon them, because they are here; the other have had the Law executed upon them, they are gone to drink that which they have been brewing, and thou art brewing that in this Life, which thou must certainly drink. The same Law, I say, is in Force against you both, only he is executed,
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and thou art not. Just as if they were a Company of Prisoners at the Bar, and all condemned to die; what because they are not all executed in one Day, therefore they shall not be executed at all? Yes, the same Law that executed its Severity upon the Parties now deceased: will for certain be executed upon them that are alive, in its appointed Time. Even so it is here, we are all condemned by Nature, if we close not in with the Grace of God by Jesus Christ, we must and shall be destroyed with the same Destruction; *and therefore send him, (saith he) lest, Mark, lest they come into this Place of Torment.*

Again, *Send him to my Father's House, and let him testify unto them, lest they come into this Place of Torment.* As if he had said, It may be he may prevail with them; it may be he may win upon them, and so they may be kept from hence, from coming into this grievous Place of Torment. Observe again, *That there is a Possibility of obtaining Mercy, if now, I say, now is the Day of Grace, we turn from our Sins to Jesus Christ;* yea, it is more than possible. And therefore for thy Encouragement, do thou know for certain, that if thou shalt in this thy Day, accept of Mercy upon God's own Terms, and close with him effectually, God hath promised, yea, made many Promises, that thy Soul shall be conducted safely to Glory, and shall for certain escape all the Evil that I have told thee of; Ah, and many more than I can imagine. Do but search the Scriptures and see how full of Consolation they are to a poor Soul, that is minded to close in with Jesus Christ. *He that cometh to me, (saith Christ) I will in no wise cast out.* Tho' he be

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The Groans of a Damned Soul.

91

be an old Sinner, *I will in no wise cast him out*; Mark, *in no wise*, tho' he be a greater Sinner, *I will in no wise cast him out*, if he come to me, tho' he have slighted me never so many Times, and not regarded the Welfare of his own Soul, and let him now come to me, & notwithstanding this, *I will in no wise cast him out*, nor throw away his Soul, *John 6. 37.* Again, saith the Apostle, *Now (mark now) is the accepted Time, now is the Day of their Salvation.* Now is there Mercy good Store, now God's Heart is open to Sinners; now he will make you welcome; now he will receive any Body, if they do but come to Christ. *He that comes to me (saith Christ) I will in no wise cast him out.* And why? Because *now is the accepted Time, now is the Day of Salvation*, 2 Cor. 6. 1, 3. As if the Apostle had said, If you will have Mercy, have it now, receive it now, close in with it now.

God hath a certain Day to hold out his Grace to Sinners: Now is the Time, now is the Day. 'Tis true, there is a Day of Damnation, but this is a Day of Salvation. There is a Day coming, wherein Sinners *must cry to the Mountains to fall upon them, to the Hills to cover them from the Wrath of God*; but now, now is the Day in which he doth hold out his Grace. There is a Day coming, in which you will not be admitted to have the Privilege of one Drop of Water to cool your Tongue, if now, I say, if now you slight his Grace and Goodness, which he holds out to you. Ah, Friends, consider, there are now *Hopes* of Mercy, but then there will not. Now Christ holds out Mercy, unto you, but then he will not, *Mat. 7. 23.* Now there are his Servants [that do beseech you to accept

of his Grace, but if you lose the Opportunity that is put in thine Hand, thou thy self mayest beseech hereafter, and no Mercy be given thee, *And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have Mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the Tip of his Finger in Water, & cool my Tongue.* And there was none given. Therefore let it never be said of thee, as it will be said of some; *Why is there a Price put into the Hand of a Fool, seeing he hath no Heart to it.* Seeing he hath no Heart to make good Use of it? (*Prov. 17. 16.*) consider therefore with thy self, and say, *It is better to go to Heaven than Hell: It is better to be saved than damned: It is better to be with Saints, than with damned Souls; and to go to God is better than to go to the Devil.*

Therefore seek the Lord while he may be found, and call upon him while he is near, *Isai. 55. 6* Lest in thy Trouble he leave thee to thy self, & say unto thee plainly, *Where I am, thither ye cannot come,* *John 8. 21.*

O, if they that are in Hell might but now again, have one such Invitation as this, how would they leap for Joy? I have thought sometimes, should God send but one of his Ministers to be damned in Hell, and give him Commission to Preach the free Love of God in Christ extended to them, & held out to them, if now while it is proffered to them, they will accept of his Kindness; O, how welcome would they make this News, and close in with it on any Terms!

Certainly they would say, we will accept of Grace on any Terms in the World, and thank you too, tho' it cost Life and Limbs too boot; we will spare no Cost nor Charge, if Mercy may be had. But poor Souls, while they live

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here, they will not part from Sin, with Hell-bred devilish Sin : No, they will rather lose their Souls, than lose their filthy Sins.

But Friend, thou wilt change thy Note before it be long, and cry, *O simple Wretch that I am, that I should damn my Soul by Sin !*

'Tis true, I have had the Gospel preached to me, and have been invited in : I have been preached to, and have been warned of this ; but *how have I hated Instruction; and mine Heart despised Reproof? I have not obeyed the Voice of my Teachers, nor inclined mine Ear to them that instructed me,* Prov. 5. 10, 11. O therefore, I say, poor Soul ! Is there hope ? Then lay thy Hand upon thy Mouth, and kiss the Dust, and close in with the Lord Jesus Christ, and make much of his glorious Mercy ; and invite also thy Companions to close in with the same Lord Jesus Christ, lest one of you do go to Hell before-hand, and expect with Grief of Heart your Companions to come after ; and in the mean Time, with Anguish of Heart, do sigh and say, *O send to my Companions and let them testify to them, lest they also come into this Place of Torment.*

Now then from what has been said, there might many Things be spoken by Way of Use and Application ; but I shall be very Brief, and but touch some Things, and so wind up.

And first, I shall begin with the sad Condition of those that die out of Christ, & speak something to that.

Secondly, To the latter End of the Parable, which more evidently concerns the Scripture, and speak something to that.

1. Therefore you see, that the first Part of the Parable, contains a sad Declaration of the

State of one living and dying out of Christ ; how that they lose Heaven for Hell, God for the Devil, Light for Darkness, Joy for Sorrow.

2. How that they have not so much as the least Comfort from God, who in the Time they live here below, neglect coming to him for Mercy ; not so much as one drop of cold Water.

3. That such Souls will repent of their Folly, when Repentance will do them no Good, or when they shall be past Recovery.

4. That all the Comfort such Souls are like to have, they have it in this World.

5. That all their Groanings & Sighs, will not move God to mitigate in the least his heavy Hand of Vengeance that is upon them, for the Transgressions they have committed against him.

6. That their sad State is irrecoverable, or they must never, (mark) never come out of that Condition.

7 Their Desires will not be heard for their ungodly Neighbours.

From these Things, then I pray you consider the State of those that die out of Christ Jesus ; yea, I say, consider their miserable State ; and think thus with thy self : Well, if I neglect coming to Christ, I must go to the Devil, and he will not neglect to fetch me away into those intolerable Torments.

Think thus with thy self ; What, shall I lose a long Heaven, for a short Pleasure ? shall I buy the Pleasures of this-World at so dear a Rate, as to lose my Soul for the obtaining of that ? Shall I content my self with a Heaven, that will last no longer than my Life-time ? What Advantage will these Things be to me, when the Lord shall separate Soul and Body a-

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funder, and send one to the Grave, and the other to Hell, & at the Judgment-Day, the final Sentence of eternal Ruin must be past upon me?

1. Consider, That the Profits, Pleasures & Vanities of this World, will not last for ever, but the Time is coming, yea, just at the Doors, when they shall give thee the Slip, & leave thee in the Suds, and in the Brambles of all that thou hast done.

2. And therefore to prevent this dismal State, think thus with thy self: 'Tis true I do love my Sins, my Lusts and Pleasures; but what good will they do me at the Day of Death, and of Judgment? Will my Sins do me good then? Will they be able to help me, when I come to fetch my last Breath? What good will my Profits do me? And what good will my Vanities do, when Death says, he will have no Nay? What good will all my Companions, Fellow-jesters, Jeerers, Liars, Drunkards, and all my Wantons do me? Will they help to ease the Pains of Hell? Will these help me to turn the Hand of God from inflicting his fierce Anger upon me? Nay, nay, will they rather cause God to shew me no Mercy, to give me no Comfort; but rather to thrust me down in the hottest Place in Hell, where I may swim in Fire and Brimstone.

3. Consider thus with thy self, would I be glad to have all, every one of my Sins to come in against me, to inflame the Justice of God against me? Would I be glad to be bound up in them, as the three Children were bound in their Cloaths, and to be really thrown into the *Fiery Furnace* of the Wrath of Almighty God, as they were into *Nebuchadnezzar's* fiery Furnace?

4. Consider thus; would I be glad to have all and every one of the **Ten Commandments**,

Signs from Hell: Or,
to discharge themselves against my Soul? The
first saying, Damn him, for he hath broken
me, &c.

Consider how terrible this will be, yea, more
terrible, than if thou shouldst have Ten of the
biggest Pieces of Ordnance in *England* to be
discharged against thy Body, Thunder, Thunder
one after another! Nay, this would not be
comparable to the Reports that the Law, (for
the breach thereof) will give against thy Soul?
For those can but kill the Body; but these will
kill both Body and Soul; and that not for an
Hour, a Day, a Month, or a Year, but they will
condemn thee for ever.

Mark, it is for ever, for ever. It is into e-
verlasting Damnation, eternal Destruction, e-
ternal Wrath and Displeasure from God, eter-
nal Gnawings of Conscience, eternal Continu-
ance with Devils.

O Consider, it may be the Thought of seeing
the Devil, doth now make thine Hair to stand
upright upon thy Head. O, but this, to be
Damned, to be among all the Devils, and that
not only for a Time, as I said before, but for
ever to all Eternity.

This is wonderfully *Miserable, ever Miserable*;
that no Tongue of Man, no, nor of Angels
is able to express it.

5. Consider much with thy self, not only my
Sins against the Law will be laid to my Charge,
but also the Sins I have committed in slighting
the Gospel, the glorious Gospel: These also
must come with a Voice against me. As thus,
Nay, he is worthy to be Damn'd, for he rejected
the Gospel, he slighted the free Grace of God,
tendered in the Gospel. How many Times was
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thou (Damned Wretch) invited, intreated, be-
sought to come to Christ, to accept of Mercy,
that thou mightest have Heaven, thy Sins par-
doned, thy Soul saved, thy Body and Soul glo-
rified, and all this for nothing but the Accep-
tance, and thro' Faith forsaking those Imps of
Satan. Which by their Embracements have
drawn thee downward toward the Gulf of God's
Eternal Displeasure.

How often didst thou read the *Promises*, yea,
the free *Promises* of the common Salvation ?
How oft didst thou read the sweet Counsels and
Admonitions of the Gospel to accept of the
Grace of God ? But thou wouldst not, thou
regardedst it not, thou didst slight all.

2. As I would have thee to consider the sad
and woful State of those that die out of Christ,
and are past all Recovery, so would I have
thee, consider the many Mercies and Privileges
thou enjoyest above some (peradventure) of
thy Companions that are departed to their
proper Place.

As first, Consider, thou hast still the Thread
of thy Life lengthned, which for thy Sins might
seven Years ago, or more, have been cut asun-
der, and thou have dropped down amongst the
Flames.

2. Consider the Terms of Reconciliation by
Faith in Christ, are still proffered unto thee, &
then invited, yea, intreated to accept of them.

3. Consider the Terms of Reconciliation are
(bear with me, tho' I say but) only to be-
lieve in Jesus Christ, with Faith that purifies
the Heart, and enables thy Soul to feed on
him effectually, and be saved from this sad
State.

4. Consider,

4 Consider, the Time of thy Departure is at Hand, and the Time is uncertain, and also that for ought thou knowest, the Day of Grace may be past to thee before thou diest, not lasting so long as the uncertain Life in this World. And if so, then know for certain, that thou art as sure to be Damned, as if thou wert in Hell already ; if thou convert not in the mean while.

5 Consider, it may be some of thy Friends are giving all Diligence to make their Calling and Election sure, being resolved for Heaven, and thou thy self endeavourest, as fast to make sure of Hell, as if resolved to have it ; and together with this, consider how it will grieve thee, that while thou wert making sure of Hell, thy Friends are making sure of Heaven ; but more of this by and by.

6 Consider, what a sad Reflection this will have on thy Soul, to see thy Friends in Heaven, and thy self in Hell ; thy Father in Heaven, and thou in Hell ; thy Mother in Heaven, and thou in Hell ; thy Brother, thy Sister, thy Children in Heaven, and thou in Hell. As Christ said to the *Jews* of their Relations, according to the Flesh, so may I say to thee, concerning thy Friends. *There shall be weeping and wailing, and gnashing of Teeth*, when you shall see your Father & Mothers, Brethren and Sisters, Husbands & Wives, Children and Kinsfolk, with your Friends and Neighbours in the Kingdom of Heaven, *and thou thy self thrust out*, Luke 13. 29, 30.

But again, because I would not only tell thee of the damnable State of those that die out of Christ, but also persuade thee to take hold of Life, and go to Heaven, take Notice of these following Things.

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1. Consider, that whatever thou canst do, as to thy acceptance with God, is not worth the Dirt of thy Shoes, but is *all as menstrous Rags*, *Isai. 64. 6.*

2. Consider that all the Conditions of the new Covenant, (as to Salvation) are and have been compleatly fulfilled by the Lord Jesus Christ, and that for Sinners.

3. Consider that the Lord calls to thee, for to receive whatsoever Christ hath done, and that on free cost, *Rev. 22. 17.*

4. Consider, that thou canst not honour God more than close in with his Proffers of Grace, Mercy and Pardon of Sin, *Rom. 4.*

Again, that which will add to all the rest thou shalt have the very Mercy of God, the Blood of Christ, the Preachers of the Word, together with every Sermon; all the Promises, Invitations, Exhortations, and all the Counsels and Threatnings of the Blessed Word of God; Thou shalt have all thy Thoughts, Words and Actions, together with all thy Food, thy Raiment, thy Sleep, thy Goods, and also all Hours, whatsoever else God hath given thee: I say thy Abuse of all these shall come up in Judgment against thy Soul. For God will reckon with thee *for every Thing, whether it be Good or Bad*, *Eccl. 12. 14.*

5. Nay further, it is so unreasonable a Thing for a Sinner to refuse the Gospel, that the very Devils themselves will come in against thee, as well as *Sodom*, that Damned Crew: May not they, I say come in against thee, & say, O thou simple Man! O vile Wretch! that had not so much Care of thy Soul, thy precious Soul, as the Beast hath of his Young, or the Dog of the very Bone that lyeth before him. Was thy
Soul

Soul worth so much, and didst thou so little regard it? Were the Thunder Claps of the Law so terrible, & didst thou so slight them? Besides, was the Gospel so freely, so frequently, so fully tendred to thee, and yet hast thou rejected all these Things?

Hast thou valued Sin at a higher Rate than thy Soul? than God, Christ, Angels, Saints, and Communion with them in eternal Blessedness and Glory? Wast thou not told of Hell-fire, those intolerable Roarings of the Damned Ones that are therein? Didst thou never hear or read that doleful saying in the 16th of *Luke*, how the sinful Man cries out among the Flame, *One Drop of Water to cool my Tongue?* Thus I say may the very Devils, being ready to go with thee into the burning Furnace of Fire and Brimstone, tho' not for Sins of so high a Nature as thine, trembling say, O that Christ had died for Devils, as he died for Man! And, Oh, that the Gospel had been preached to us, as it had been to thee! How would we have labour'd to have clos'd in with it? But, Woe be to us, for we might never have it proffered; no, not in the least, tho' we would have been glad of it. But you have had it proffered, preached and proclaimed unto you, 1 *Prov.* 1. 4. Besides, you have been intreated and beseeched to accept it, but you would not. O simple Fools! That might have escap'd Wrath, Vengeance, Hell Fire, and that to all Eternity, and no Heart at all to do it.

6. May not the Messengers of Jesus Christ also come in with a shrill and terrible Note against thy Soul, when thou standest at the Bar of God's Justice, saying, Nay, thou ungodly One,

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One, how often hast thou been forewarned of this Day? Did we not sound an *Alarm* in thine Ears, by the Trumpet of God's Words, Day after Day? How often didst thou hear us tell thee of these things! Did we not tell thee, that without Conversion, there was no Salvation? Did we not tell thee, that they who loved their Sins should be damn'd at this dark and gloomy Day (as thou art like to be?) Yea did we not tell thee, that God out of Love to Sinners, sent Christ to die for them, that they might (by coming to him) be saved? Did we not run, ride, labour, and strive abundantly (if it might have been for the good of thy Soul, tho' now a Damned Soul?) Did we not venture our Goods, our Names, our Lives? Yea, did we not even kill our selves with our earnest Intreatings of thee, to consider of thine Estate, and by Christ to escape this dreadful Day? O sad Doom! When thou shalt be forced full sore against thy Will, to fall under the Truth of this Judgment, saying, *O how have I hated Instruction and how hath my Heart despised Reproof?* For indeed, *I have not obeyed the Voice of my Teachers, nor inclined mine Ear to them that instructed me,* Prov. 5. 11, 12, 13.

7. May not thy Father, thy Mother, thy Brother, thy Sister, thy Friend, &c. appear with Gladness against thee at the terrible Day? Saying, Oh, thou silly Wretch! How rightly hath God met with thee? O, how righteously doth his Sentence pass upon thee? Remember, thou wouldst not be ruled nor perswaded in thy Lifetime; as thou didst not care for us, and our Admonitions then, so neither do we care for thy Ruin, Terror and Damnation now. No, but

102 *Sighs from Hell.* Oh,
he will stand on God's Side, in sentencing of
thee to that Portion which the Devils must be
Partakers of. *The Righteous shall rejoyce when*
he seeth the Vengeance, he shall wash his Foot
in the Blood of the Wicked, Psal. 5. 8, 10. O sad
It is enough to make Mountains tremble, and
the Rocks rend in Pieces, to hear this doleful
Sound. Consider these things & if thou wouldst
be loth to be in this Condition, then have a
Care of living in Sin now. How loth wilt thou
be to be thrust away from the Gates of Heaven
And how loth wilt thou be to be deprived of
the Mercy of God? How unwillingly wilt
thou set Foot forward towards the Lake of Fire?
Never did Malefactor so unwillingly turn off
the Ladder when the Halter was about his Neck,
as thou wilt turn from God to the Devil, from
Heaven to Hell, when the Sentence is passed
upon thy Soul.

Oh, how wilt thou Sigh and Groan! How
willingly wouldst thou hide thy self, and run
away from Justice? But, alas! as it is with
them that are on the Ladder, ready to be exe-
cuted, so it will be with thee. They would
fain run away, but there are many Halbard-
men to stay them: And so the Angels of God
will beset thee round, I say, *Round on every*
Side, so that thou mayst indeed look, but run
thou canst not: *Thou mayst wish thy self under*
some Rock or Mountain, Rev. 6. 15, 16. But
how to get under, thou knowest not. O how
unwilling wilt thou be to let thy Father go to
Heaven without thee? Thy Mother or Friends,
&c. go to Heaven without thee? How willing-
ly wouldst thou hang on them, and not let
them go? O Father! cannot you help me?
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Mother, cannot you do me some Good? O how loth am I to burn and Fry in Hell, while you are singing in Heaven? But, alas, the Father, Mother, or Friends reject them, slight them, & turn their Backs upon them, saying, *You would have none of Heaven in your Life-time, therefore you shall have none of it now: You slighted our Counsels then, and we slight your Tears, Cries, and Condition now.* What sayest thou Sinner? Will not this persuade thine Heart, nor make thee be-
thinkthy self? This is now before thou fall into that dreadful Place, that fiery Furnace. But, O, consider how dreadful the Place it self, the Devils themselves, the Fire it self will be! And this at the End of all, here thou must lye for ever, *here thou must fry for ever and for ever.* This will be more to thee, than any Man with Tongue can exprefs, or can write; there is none that can, I say, by the ten thousandth Part, discover the State and Condition of such a Soul.

I shall conclude this then with a few Considerations of Encouragement.

1. Consider (for I would fain have thee come in Sinner) that there is Way made by Jesus Christ for them, that are under the Curse of God, to come to this comfortable and blessed State of *Lazarus*, I was speaking of. See *Eph. 2.*

2. Consider what Pains Christ Jesus took for the Ransoming of thy Soul from all the Curses, Thunder-claps and Tempests of the Law; from all the intolerable Flames of Hell; from that Soul-sinking Appearance of thy Person (on the left hand) before the Judgment-Seat of Christ Jesus, from everlasting Fellowship, with innumerable Companies of Yelling, & Soul-amazing Devils. I say, consider what Pains the Lord

Sighs from Hell : Or,

Jesus Christ took in bringing in Redemption for Sinners from these Things.

1. In that, *Though he were rich, yet he became poor, that thou thro' his Poverty might be made rich,* 2 Cor. 8. 9. He laid aside his Glory, Joh. 17. *and became a Servant,* Phil. 2. He left the Company of Angels, and encountred with the Devil, *Luke 4. Mat. 4.* He left Heaven's ease for a Time, to lye upon hard Mountains, *John 8.* In a Word, he became poorer than they that go with Flail and Rake ; yea, than the very Birds or Foxes, and all to do thee Good. Besides, consider a little of these unspeakable and intolerable Slightings & Rejections, and the manifold Abuses that came from Men upon him. How he was falsly accused, being a sweet, harmless, and undefiled Lamb. How he was undervalued, so that a Murtherer was counted less worthy of Condemnation than he. Besides, how they mocked him, spit on him, beat him over the Head with Staves, had the *Hair* pluck'd from his Cheeks. *I gave my Back to the Smitters* (saith he) *and my Cheeks to them that pluck'd off the Hair ; I hid not my Face from Shame & Spitting.* His Head crown'd with Thorns, his Hands pierc'd with Nails, & his Side with a Spear ; together with how they us'd him, scourg'd him, & so miserably misusing him, that they had even spent him in a great Measure, before they did crucify him. Inso-much, that there was another pain to carry his Cross.

Again, Not only this, but lay to heart a little what he receiv'd from God his dear Father, tho' he were his dear and tender Son, First, in that he did reckon him the greatest Sinner & Rebel in the World : For he laid the Sins of Thousands, and ten Thousands, and Thousand of Thou-

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Thousands of Sinners to his Charge, *Isai. 53.* And caused him to drink the terrible Cup that was due to them all : And not only so, but did delight in so doing : *For it pleased the Lord to bruise him.* God dealt indeed with his Son, as *Abraham* would have dealt with *Isaac*, ay, and more terrible by ten Thousand Parts. For he did not only tear his Body like a Lyon, but made his Soul an Offering for Sin. And this was not done feignedly, but really (for Justice call'd for it, he standing in the Room of Sinners) Witness that horrible and unspeakable Agony that fell on him suddenly in the Garden, as if all the Vials of God's unspeakable scalding Vengeance had been cast upon him at once, and all the Devils in Hell had been broken loose from thence at once to destroy him, and that for ever ; insomuch, that the very Pangs of Death seized upon him in the same Hour. For, saith he, *My Soul is exceeding Sorrowful and Amazed, even unto Death, Mark 14. 33, 35.*

Witness also that strange kind of Sweat, that trickled down his most blessed Face, where it is said ; *And he sweat as it were great Drops or Cludders of Blood, trickling down to the Ground.* O Lord Jesus ! What a Load didst thou erry ? What a Burden didst thou bear of the Sins of the World, and the Wrath of God ? O, thou that didst not only bleed at Nose and Mouth, with the Pressure that lay upon thee, but thou wast so pressed, so loaden, that the pure Blood gushed thro' the Flesh and Skin, and so ran trickling down to the Ground. *And his Sweat was as it were great Drops of Blood, trickling or falling down to the Ground, Luke 22. 24.* Canst thou read this, O, wicked Sinner, and yet go on

in Sin? Canst thou think of this, & defer Repen-
tance one Hour longer? O, Heart of Flint!
Yea, harder. O, miserable Wretch! What
Place in Hell will be hot enough for thee, to
have thy Soul put into, if thou shalt persist, or
go on still to add Iniquity to Iniquity.

Besides, his Soul went down to Hell, *Psal.*
16. 10. Acts 2. 31. and his Body to the Bars of
the Grave. And had Hell, Death or the Grave,
been strong enough to hold him, then he had
suffered the Vengeance of eternal Fire, to all
Eternity. But, O blessed Jesus! How didst
thou discover thy Love to Man, in thy thus
Suffering? And, O God the Father! How didst
thou also declare the Purity, and Exactness of
thy Justice, in that tho' it was thine only holy,
innocent, harmless, and undefiled Son Jesus,
that did take on him our Nature, and repre-
sent our Persons, answering for our Sins, instead
of our selves: Thou didst so wonderfully pour
out thy Wrath upon him, to the making him
cry out, *My God, my God, why hast thou forsak-
en me?* And, O Lord Jesus! What a glorious
Conquest hast thou made over the Enemies of
our Souls, even Wrath, Sin, Death, Hell, & Devils,
in that thou didst wring thy self from under the
Power of them all? And not only so, but hast
led us Captive; & also hast receiv'd for us that glo-
rious & unspeakable Inheritance, *That Eye hath not
seen, nor Ear heard, neither hath it entred into the
Heart of Man to conceive.* And also hast given
them some Discovery thereof, through thy Spirit.

And now Sinner, together with this consider.

Fourthly, That tho' Jesus Christ hath done
all these Things for Sinners, yet the Devils
make it their whole Work, and continual Stu-
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The Groans of a Damned Soul.

Repent how they might keep thee and others from enjoying of these blessed Privileges, that have been thus obtained for Sinners, by this sweet Jesus. He labours, I say,

1. To keep thee Ignorant of thy State by Nature.
2. To harden thy Heart against the Ways of God.
3. To inflame thy Heart with Love to Sin, and the Ways of Darkness.

And 4. To get thee to continue herein. For that is the Way, he knows, to get thee to be a Partaker with him of flaming Hell-fire, even the same that he himself is fallen into ; together with the rest of the wicked World, by Reason of Sin : Look to it therefore.

But now, in the next Place, a Word of Encouragement to you that are the Saints of the Lord.

1. Consider what an happy State thou art in, that hast gotten the Faith of the Lord Jesus into thy Soul (but be sure thou have it) I say, how safe, how sure, how happy art thou ! For when others go to Hell, thou must go to Heaven, when others go to the Devil, thou must go to God ; when as others go to Prison, thou must be set at Liberty, at Ease, & at Freedom ; when others must roar with Sorrow of Heart, then thou shalt also sing for the Joy of thy Heart.

2. Consider, thou must have all thy well-spent Life to follow thee, instead of all thy Sins, and the glorious Blessings of the Gospel, instead of the dreadful Curses and Condemnations of the Law ; the Blessing of the Father, instead of a fiery Sentence from the Judge.

3. Let Dissolution come when it will, it can do thee no harm ; for it will be but only a Passage out of a Prison into a Palace ; out of a Sea of Troubles, into a Haven of Rest ; out of

a Croud of Enemies, to an innumerable Company of true, loving and faithful Friends ; out of Shame, Reproach and Contempt, into exceeding great and eternal Glory. For Death shall not hurt thee with his Sting, nor bite thee with his Soul-murdering Teeth, but shall be a welcome Guest to thee, even to thy Soul, in that it is sent to free thee from thy Troubles, which thou art in whilst here in this World, dwelling in the Tabernacle of Clay.

4. Consider, however it goes with Friends and Relations, yet it will go well with thee, *Ecc.* 8 12.

However it goes with the Wicked, yet I know ; Mark, yet I know (saith he) that it will go well with them that fear the Lord, that fear before him.

! And therefore let this in the first Place cause thee chearfully to exercise thy Patience under all the Calamities, Crosses, Troubles and Afflictions that may come upon thee ; and by patient Continuance in Well-doing, to commit both thy self and thine Affairs and Actions into the Hands of God, through Jesus Christ, as to a faithful Creator, who is true in his Word, and loveth to give unto thee, whatsoever he hath promised unto thee.

And therefore to encourage thee, while thou art here with Comfort, to hold on for all thy Crosses in this thy Journey, be much in considering the Place that thou must go into so soon as Dissolution comes.

It must be into Heaven, to God the Judge of all, to an innumerable Company of Angels, to the Spirits of Just Men made perfect, to the General Assembly, and the Church of the first
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Com- born, whose Names are written in Heaven, &
s; out o Jesus (to the Redeemer) who is the Media-
to ex- or of the New Covenant, and to the Blood of
Death sprinkling that speaks better Things for thee,
te thee than *Abel's* did for *Cain*, Heb 11.22.23,24.

3. Consider, that when the Time of the Dead,
ll be a that they shall be raised is come, then shall thy
oul, in Body be raised out of the Grave, and be glori-
ubles, fied, and be made like to Jesus Christ, *Phil* 3
World, 51. O Excellent Condition!

4. When Jesus Christ shall sit on the Throne
ds and of his Glory, you shall also sit with him, even
*Ecc*l. when he shall sit on the Throne of his Glory. O
yet I will not this be glorious, that when Thousands, &
at it Thousands of Thousands shall be arraign'd before
Lord, the Judgment-Seat of Christ, then for you to sit
cause with him upon the *Throne*, together with him
nder to pass the Sentence upon the Ungodly, *1 Cor*.
Af. 6.2,3. Will it not be glorious to enjoy those
pa- Things that Eye hath not seen, nor Ear heard,
mit neither hath entred into the Heart of Man to
into conceive?

Will it not be glorious to have this Sentence,
s to *Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the king-*
and *dom prepar'd for you before the Foundation of*
ath *the World*? Will it not be glorious to enter
ou then with the Angels and Saints, into that glo-
hy rious Kingdom? Will it not be glorious for
n- thee to be in Glory with them, while others
so are in *unutterable Torments*? O then, How will
of it *Comfort* thee to see thou hast not *lost* that
o Glory; to think that the Devil hath not got
e thy Soul, that thy Soul should be saved, and
t that not from a little, but a great exceeding
n Danger; not with a little, but a great Salvati-
on. O, therefore let the Saints be joyful in
Glory

Glory, let them Triumph over all their Enemies. Let them begin to sing Heaven upon Earth, Triumph before they come to Glory, even when they are in the midst of their Enemies, *For this Honour shall all his Saints have,* Psal. 149. 6, 7, 8, 9.

Verse 29. *And Abraham saith unto him, they have Moses and the Prophets, let them hear them.*

IN the Verses foregoing, you see there is a Discovery of the lamentable State of the poor Soul that dies out of Christ, and the special Favour of God. And also how little the glorious God of Heaven doth regard and take Notice of their most miserable Condition.

Now in this Verse, he doth magnifie the Words which were spoken to the People by the Prophets & Apostles, *They have Moses and the Prophets, let them hear them.* As if he should say, Thou askest me, that I should send *Lazarus* back again into the World to preach to them, that live there, that they might escape that doleful Place that thou art in: What needs that? Have they not *Moses* and the Prophets? Have they not had my Ministers and Servants sent unto them, and coming as from me? I sent *Enoch*, *Noah*, *Moses*, and *Samuel*, I sent *David*, *Isaiah*, *Jeremiah*, *Ezekiel*, *Daniel*, *Hosea*, and the rest of the Prophets, together with *Peter*, *Paul*, *John*, *Matthew*, *James*, *Jude*, with the rest; *Let them hear them.* What they have spoken by Divine Inspiration I will own, whether it be for the Damnation of those that reject, or the saving of them that receive their Doctrine. And therefore what need have they that

that one should be sent unto them in another Way? They have *Moses and the Prophets, let them hear them*; Let them receive their Word, close in with the Doctrine declared by them. I shall not at this Time speak any Thing to that Word (*Abraham*) having touch'd upon it already; but shall tell you what is to be understood by these Words, *They have Moses & the Prophets, let them hear them*. These things that I shall observe from hence, are these, 1. That the Scriptures spoken by the Holy Men of God, are a sufficient Rule to instruct to Salvation, them that do assuredly believe & close in with what they hold forth, *They have Moses and the Prophets, let them hear them*. That is, if they would escape that doleful Place, and be saved indeed from the intolerable Pains of Hell-fire, as they desire; they have that which is sufficient to counsel them, *They have Moses & the Prophets*; let them be instructed by them, *let them hear them*, 2 Tim. 3. 16, 17. *For all Scripture is given by Inspiration of God, & is profitable for Doctrine, for Reproof, for Correction, for Instruction in Righteousness*? Why, *That the Man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished to every good Work*.

Do but mark these Words, *All Scripture is profitable*: *All*; take it where you will, & in what Place you will: *All is profitable*? For What? *That the Man of God, or he that is bound for Heaven, would instruct others in their Progress thither*.

It is profitable to instruct him, in case he be Ignorant; to reprove him, in case he transgress; to correct him, if he hath need of it; to confirm him, if he be wavering. It is profitable

table for Doctrine, & all this in a very righteous Way, that the poor Soul may not only be helped, thoroughly furnished, not only to some, but to all good Works. And when *Paul* would counsel *Timothy*, to stick close to the Things that are sound & sure, presently he puts him upon the Scriptures, saying, *Thou hast from a Child known the Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto Salvation, thro' Faith which is in Christ Jesus.* The Scripture holds forth God's Mind and Will, of his Love and Mercy towards Man, & also the Creatures carriage towards him, from first to last: so if thou wouldst know the Love of God in Christ to Sinner, *Then search the Scriptures, for they are they that testify of him.*

Wouldst thou know what thou art and what is in thy Heart? Then search the Scriptures, and see what's written in them, *Rom. 3. from 9. to 18. Rom. 1. 19, 30, 31. Jer. 17. 9. Gen. 6. 6. Chap. 8. 21. Ephes. 4. 18.* with many others. The Scriptures, I say, they are able to give a Man perfect Instruction into any of the Things of God, necessary to Faith and Godliness, if he hath but an honest Heart, seriously to weigh and ponder the several Things contained in them. As to instance in Things more particular, for the further clearing up of this: And first if we come to the Creation of the World.

Wouldst thou know somewhat concerning that; Then read *Gen. 1st. & 2d Chapters*, and compare them with *Psal. 33d*, at the 6th. Also *Isai. 66. 2. Prov. 8.* towards the End.

Wouldst thou know whether he made them of something or nothing? Read *Heb. 11. 3.*

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any Labour in making them, as we do in making Things? Read *Psalms* 33. 2.

If thou wouldst know whether Man was made by God corrupt and upright, read *Eccl.* 7. 26. *Gen.* 1. 10, 18, 25, 31.

Wouldst thou know where God did Place Man after he had made him? Read *Gen.* 2. 15.

Wouldst thou know whether that Man did live there at this Time or not? Then read *Gen.* 3. 23, 24.

If thou wouldst know whether Man be still in that state by Nature, that God did place him in; Then read *Eccl.* 7. 26. and compare it with *Rom.* 5. 16. & *Eph.* 2. 1, 2 3. *God made Man Upright, but he hath sought out many Inventions.* If thou wouldst know whether Man were first beguiled, or the Woman, that God made an Help-meat for him, read *Gen.* 3. 6. and compare it with *1 Tim.* 2. 14.

Wouldst thou know whether God looked upon *Adam's* eating the forbidden Tree to be Sin or no? Read *Rom.* 5. 12, 13, 14, 15. and compare it with *Gen.* 3. 17.

Wouldst thou know whether it were the Devil who beguiled them, or whether it was a natural Serpent, such as do haunt the Desolate Places? Read *Gen.* 3. 12. with *Rev.* 20. 1, 2, 3.

Wouldst thou know whether Man was cursed for his Sin? Read *Gal.* 3. 20. *Rom.* 5. 15.

Wouldst thou know whether Man be defiled in every Part of him, by the Sin he hath committed? Then Read *Isa.* 1. 6.

Wouldst thou know Man's Inclination so soon as he is born? Read *Psal.* 58. 3. *The Wicked are estranged from the Womb, they go astray so soon as they be born.*

Wouldst thou know whether Man once fallen from God by Transgression, can recover himself by all he can do? Then read *Rom. 3. 20, 23.*

Wouldst thou know whether it be the Desire of the Heart of Man by Nature, to follow God in his own Way or no? Compare *Gen. 6. 5.* and *Gen. 8. 10.* with *Hof. 12. 7.*

Wouldst thou know how God's Heart stood affected towards Man before the World began? Compare *Eph. 1. 4.* with *2 Tim. 1. 9.*

Wouldst thou know whether Sin were sufficient to draw God's Love from his Creatures? Compare *Jer. 3. 7.* & *Micb. 7. 18.* with *Rom. 5. 6, 7, 8.*

Wouldst thou know whether God's Love did still abide towards his Creatures for any Thing they could do to make him amends? Then read *Deut. 11. 5, 6, 7, 8.*

Wouldst thou know how God could still love his Creatures, and do his Justice no Wrong? Read *Rom. 3. 24, 25, 26.* *Being justified freely by his Grace, thro' the Redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God hath sent forth to be a Propitiation for Sin, through Faith in his Blood to declare his Righteousness for the Remission of Sins that are past, thro' the Forbearance of God. To declare, I say, at this Time his Righteousness, that he might be just, and the Justifier of him that believeth in Jesus.*

That is, God having his Justice satisfied in the Blood and Righteousness, and Death of his own Son Jesus Christ, for the Sins of poor Sinners, he can now save them that come to him, tho' never so great Sinners, and do his Justice no Wrong, because it hath had a full and compleat Satisfaction given it by that Blood, *1 Job. 2. 7, 8.*

Wouldst

The Groans of a Damned Soul. 115

Wouldst thou know who he was, and what he was that did out of his Love die for Sinners? Then compare *John* 16. 17. *Rom.* 5. 8. with *Isa.* 9. 6.

Wouldst thou know whether this Saviour had a Body of Flesh & Bones, before the World was, or took it from the Virgin *Mary*? Then read *Gal.* 4. 4.

Wouldst thou know whether he did in that Body bare all our Sins, and where? Then read *1 Pet.* 2. 4. *Who bare our Sins in his own Body on the Tree.*

Wouldst thou know whether he did rise again after he was crucified with the very same Body? Then read *Luke* 24. 38, 39, 40, 41.

Wouldst thou know whether he did eat or drink with his Disciples after he arose out of the Grave? Then read *Luke* 24. 42. & *Acts* 10. 41.

If thou wouldst be persuaded of the Truth of this, that that very Body is now above the Clouds and Stars, read *Acts* 1. 9, 10, 11. & *Luke* 24. toward the End.

If thou wouldst know, that the *Quakers* hold an Error, that say the Body of Christ is within them; consider the same Scripture.

Wouldst thou know what that Christ that died for Sinners, is doing in that Place, whither he is gone? Then read *Heb.* 7. 24.

Wouldst thou know who shall have Life by him? Read *1 Tim.* 1. 14, 15. and *Rom.* 5. 6, 7, 8. which say, Christ died for Sinners, for the ungodly.

Wouldst thou know whether they that live and die in their Sins, shall go to Heaven or not? Then read, *1 Cor.* 6. 10. *Rev.* 21. 8, 27. which saith, *They shall have their Part in the Lake that burns with Fire & Brimstone.* L 2 Wouldst

Wouldst thou know whether Man's Obedience will obtain that Christ should die for them, or save them? Then read *Mark* 2. 17. *Rom.* 5. 7.

Wouldst thou know whether Righteousness, Justification, and Sanctification do come thro' the Virtue of Christ's Blood? Compare *Rom.* 5. 9. with *Heb.* 12. 12.

Wouldst thou know whether a natural Man, can abstain from the outward Act of Sin, against the Law, meerly by a principle of Nature? Then compare well *Rom.* 2. 14. with *Phil.* 3. 6.

Wouldst thou know whether a Man by Nature may know something of the invisible Things of God? Compare seriously *Rom.* 1. 20, 21. with *Rom.* 2. 14, 15.

Wouldst thou know how far a Man may go on in a Profession of the Gospel, and yet fall away? Then read *Heb.* 6. 4, 5, 6. *They may taste the good Word of God, and the Powers of the World to come. They may taste the heavenly Gift, and be Partakers of the Holy Ghost, and yet so fall as never to be recovered, or renewed again unto Repentance : See also Luke* 13.

Wouldst thou know how hard it is to go to Heaven? Read *Mat.* 7. 13, 14. *Luke* 13. 24.

Wouldst thou know whether a Man by Nature, be a Friend to God, or an Enemy? Then read *Rom.* 5. 11. *Col.* 1. 21.

Wouldst thou know what, or who they are that shall go to Heaven? Then read *John* 3. 3, 5, 7. and 2 *Cor.* 5. 17. And if thou wouldst know what a sad Thing it is for any to turn their Backs upon the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Then read *Heb.* 10. 28, 29. and *Mark* 16. 16.

Wouldst thou know what is the Wages of Sin? Then read *Rom.* 6. 23.

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Wouldst thou know whither those do go that die unconverted to the Faith of Christ? Then read *Psal.* 9. 17. and *Isa.* 14. 9.

Reader, here I might spend many Sheets of Paper, yea, I might upon this Subject write a very great Book, but I shall now forbear, desiring thee to be very conversant in the *Scriptures*, for *they are they that will testifie of Jesus Christ*, *Joh.* 5. 39. The *Bereans* were counted Noble upon this Account; *These were more noble than those of Thessalonica, in that they receiv'd the Word with all readiness of Mind; and search'd the Scriptures daily, &c.* *Acts* 17. 11. But here let me give thee one Caution, that is, have a Care that thou do not satisfie thy self with a bare Search of them, without a real Application of him, whom they testifie of to thy Soul, lest instead of faring better for thy doing this Work, thou dost fare a great deal the worse, and thy Condemnation be very much heightned in that, tho' thou didst read so often the sad State of those that die in Sin, and the glorious Estate of those that close in with Christ, yet thou thy self should be such a Fool as to lose Jesus Christ, notwithstanding thy hearing and reading so plentifully of him.

They have Moses and the Prophets, let them hear them.

As if he should say, What need have they that one should be sent to them from the Dead? Have they not *Moses* and the *Prophets*? Hath not *Moses* told them the Danger of living in Sin? *Deut.* 27. from ver. 15. to ver. 26. & *Chap.* 28. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20. &c. in the End of the Chapter; Also *Chap.* 29. 18, 19, 20. Hath

he not there told them what a sad State these Persons are in, that deceive themselves with the Deceit of their Hearts, saying, They shall have Peace, though they follow their Sins in these Words. *And when he heareth the Words of this Curse, he bleisseth himself in his Heart, saying, I shall have Peace. tho' I go on or walk in the Imagination of my Heart, to add Drunkenness to Thirst. The Lord will not spare that Man, but the Anger of the Lord, and his Jealousie shall smook against him, and all the Curses that are written in this Book, shall lie upon him: and the Lord shall blot out his Name from under Heaven.* Again, did not Moses write of the Saviour that was to come afterwards into the World? *Deut. 18. 18.* Nay, have not all the Prophets from *Samuel*, with all those that follow after, prophesied, & foretold these Things? Therefore what need have they that I should work such a Miracle. as to send one from the Dead unto them? *They have Moses and the Prophets, let them hear them.* From whence observe again, That God doth honour the Writings of *Moses* and the Prophets, as much, nay more, than if one should rise from the Dead, *Should not a People seek unto their God? Why seek ye for the Living among the Dead? To the Law, and to the Testimonies* (saith God) *if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no Light in them,* *Isa. 8. 19, 29.* And let me tell you plainly, I do believe that the Devil knows this full well, which makes him labour to beget in the Hearts of his Disciples and Followers, light Thoughts of them; and doth persuaade them, that even a Motion from their own beguiled Conscience, or from his own wicked Spirit, is

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to be observed & obeyed before them : When the very Apostle of Jesus Christ, though he heard a Voice from the excellent Glory, saying, *This is my beloved Son, &c.* Yet Writing to the Churches, he commends the Writings of the Prophets before it, saying, *We have also a more sure Word of the Prophets, unto which you do well to take heed,* 2 Pet. 1. 17, 18, 19. Now if thou doubtest whether in that Place be meant the Scriptures, the Words of the Prophets or no, read but the next Verse, where he addeth for a certain Confirmation thereof these Words : *Knowing this first, that there is no Prophecy of the Scriptures, of any private Interpretation : For Prophecy came not in old Time by the Will of Man, but holy Men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

And therefore what a sad Thing it is for those that go about to disown the Scriptures ; I tell you however they may slight them now, yet when they come into Hell, they will see their Folly : *They have Moses and the Prophets, let them hear them.*

Further, who are they that are so tossed to and fro, with the several Winds of Doctrine, that have been broach'd in these Days, but such for the most Part, as have had a light Esteem of the Scriptures ; for the Ground of Error (as Christ saith) is because they know not them, *Mark 12. 24.* And indeed, it is just with God, to give them over to follow their own dark blinded Consciences, to be led into Errors, that they might be damned into Hell, who did not believe that the things contain'd in the Scripture were the Truth, that they might be saved and go to Heaven. I cannot well tell how to have

have done speaking for, and on the Scriptures Side ; only this I consider, *A Word is enough to the wise* ; and therefore I shall commit these Things into the Hands of them that are of God : and as for the rest, I shall say to them, rather than God will save them from Hell, with the Breach of his Holy Word, if they had a Thousand Souls a piece, God would destroy them all ; *for the Scripture cannot be broken*, John 10.35.

Verse 30. *And he said, Nay, Father Abraham, but if one went to them from the Dead, they will repent.*

THE Verse before, you know, as I told you, it was part of an Answer to such as lose their Souls ; so it is a Vindication of the Scriptures of *Moses and the Prophets, They have Moses and the Prophets, let them hear them.*

Now this Verse is an Answer to what was said in the Former, and such an one as hath in it a Rejection of the former Answer. *Nay, Father Abraham* ; Nay, saith he, do not say so, do not put them off with this ; *send one from the Dead*, and then there will be some Hopes. Tis true, thou speakest of the Scripture of *Moses and the Prophets*, and sayest, *Let them hear them* ; but these Things are not so well as I could wish, I had rather thou wouldst send one from the Dead. In these Words therefore, *Nay Father Abraham*, there is a Repulse given. Nay, let it not be so. Nay, I do not like that Answer: Hear *Moses and the Prophets* ; nay, the same Expression is used by Christ Luke 13.2,3. *Think you that they upon whom the Tower of Silo fell, were Sinners above others ? I tell you nay ; for except ye Repent, ye shall all likewise*

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likewise Perish. So here, *Nay, Father Abraham, &c.*

By this Word *Nay*, therefore is signified a rejecting the first Answer.

Now observe, I pray you; the Reason why he says *nay*, is, because God doth put over all those that would be saved, to observe and receive the Truth contained in Scripture, and believe that. To have a high Esteem of them, and to love and search them, as Christ saith, *Search the Scriptures,--for they are they which testify of me*, John 5. 39 But the Damned say, *Nay*, as if he had said, This is the Thing; to be short, my Brethren are Unbelievers, and do not regard the Word of God; I know it by my self, for when I was in the World it was so with me; Many a good Sermon did I hear, many a Time was I admonished, desired, intreated, beseech'd, threatned, forewarned of what I now suffer: But, alas! I was Ignorant, Self-conceited, Surly, Obstinate, and Rebellious; Many a Time the Preachers told me, Hell would be my Portion, the Devil would wreck his Malice on me, God would pour on me his sore Displeasure; but he had as good have preached to the Stock, or to the Post, to the Stones I trod on; his Word rang in my Ears, but I kept them from my Heart. I remember he alledged many a Scripture, but those I valued not; the Scriptures, thought I, what are they? A dead Letter, a little Ink and Paper, of three or four Shillings Price. Alas! What is the Scripture? Give me a Ballad, a New's Book, George on Horse-back, *Bevis of Southampton*; give me some Book that teaches curious Arts, that tells me of old Fables; but for the

the Holy Scriptures I cared not. And as it was with me then, so it is with my Brethren now; we were all in one Spirit, loved all the same Sins, slighted all the same Counsels, Promises, Encouragements, and Threatnings of the Scripture; and they are still as I left them, still in Unbelief, still in provoking God, and rejecting good Counsel, so hardened in their Ways, so bent to follow Sin, that let the Scriptures be shewed to them Daily, let the Messengers of Christ preach till their Hearts ache, till they fall down dead with Preaching, they will rather trample under Foot, and Swine-like rent them, than close in with those gentle and blessed Proffers of the Gospel.

*Nay Father Abraham, but if one should rise from the Dead they would repent. Tho' they have Moses and the Prophets (the Scriptures) they will not repent and close in with Jesus Christ, tho' the Scriptures do witness against them. If therefore there be any good done to them, they must have it another Way. I think, saith he, it would work much on them, if one should rise from the Dead. And this Truth indeed is so evident, that ungodly Ones have a light Esteem of the Scriptures, that it needs not many strong Arguments to prove it, being so evidently manifested by their every Days Practice, both in Words and Actions, almost in all Things they say and do. Yet for the Satisfaction of the Reader, I shall shew you by a Scripture or two (though I might shew many) that this was, and is true with the Generality of the World. See the Words of *Nehemiah*, in the 9th Chapter, concerning the Children of *Israel*, who tho' the Lord afforded them Mercy upon*

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Mercy, as it is from ver. 19, to ver. 25, yet ver. 26. saith he, *Nevertheless they were Disobedient for all the Goodness towards them, and rebelled against thee (but how) and cast the Law behind their Backs ; slew the Prophets which testified against them, to turn them to thee, and they wrought great Provocations.* Observe 1. They sinned against Mercy. And then 2. They slighted the Law or Word of God. 3. They slew the Prophets that declared it unto them. 4. The Lord counts it a great Provocation. See *Heb. 3.* from ver. 10. to ver. 19. And see *Zach. 7. 11, 12.* *But they refused to hearken (saith he there of the Wicked) and pulled away the Shoulder, and stopped their Ears, that they should not hear the Law, and the words which the Lord of Hosts sent unto them in the former Prophets, &c.* Mark I pray you, here is also, First a refusing to hearken to the Words of the Prophets.

2. That they might do so, they stopped their Ears.

3. If any thing was to be done, they pulled away their Shoulder.

4. To effect this, they labour to make their Hearts hard as an Adamant Stone.

5. And all this, lest they should hear and close in with Jesus, and live, and be deliver'd from the Wrath to come. All which Things do hold out an unwillingness to submit to, and embrace the Words of God, and so Jesus Christ which is testified of by them. Many other Scriptures I might bring in for Confirmation of the Things, as that in *Amos 7. 12, 13.* also *2 Sam. 2. 24, 25.* *2 Chron. 25. 15, 16.* *Jer. 7. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27.* and *Chap. 16. 12.* Read also seriously that saying, in *2 Chron. 36. 15.* where he saith, *And the Lord God of their Fathers sent*

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Sighs from Hell: Or,

unto them by his Messengers rising up betimes, because he had Compassion on his People, and on his Dwelling place. And did they make them Welcome? No, But mocked the Messengers of God, & despised his Words: And was that all? No, they misused his Prophets. How long? until the Wrath of the Lord arose against them: Till there was no Remedy. See also Jer. 29. 19. Chap. 25. 3, 4, 5, 6. Luke 11. 49.

And besides, the Conversion of almost all Men doth bear Witness to the same, both religious & prophane Persons, in that they daily neglect, reject and turn their Backs upon the plain Testimony of the Scripture.

As 1. Take the Threatnings laid down in Holy Writ, and how are they Disregarded? There are but a few Places in the Bible, but there are Threatnings against one Sinner or other; against Drunkards, Swearers, Lyars, proud Persons, Strumpets, Whoremongers, Covetous, Railers, Extortioners, Thieves, lazy Persons; In a word, all Manner of Sins are reprov'd, and without Faith in the Lord Jesus, there is a sore Punishment to be executed on the Committers of them; and all this made Mention of in the Scriptures.

But for all this, how thick, and by Heaps, do these Wretches walk up and down our Streets? Do but go into the Ale-houses, and you shall see almost every Room besprinkled with them, so foaming out their own Shame, that it is enough to make the Heart of a Saint to tremble, insomuch that they would not be bound to have Society with them any long while for all the World. For as the Ways of the Godly are not liked of by the Wicked, even

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so the Ways of the Wicked are an Abomination to the Just, Prov. 29. 27. Psal. 110. 5, 6.

The Scriptures say, *Cursed is the Man that trusteth in Man, that maketh Flesh his Arm, and whose Heart departeth from the Lord, Jer. 17. 5.*

And yet how many poor Souls are there in the World, that stand in so much awe & dread of Men, and do so highly esteem their Favour, that they will rather venture their Souls in the Hands of the Devil with their Favour, than they will fly to Jesus Christ for the Salvation of their Souls? Nay, tho' they be convinced in their Souls, that the Way is the Way of God; yet how do they labour to stifle Conviction, and turn their Ears away from the Truth, and all because they will not lose the Favour of an opposite Neighbour! Oh, I dare not for my Master, my Brother, my Landlord; I shall lose his Favour, his House of Work, and so decay my Calling. O, saith another, I would willingly go in this Way, but for my Father, he chides and tells me he will not stand my Friend, when I come to want: I shall never enjoy a Pennyworth of his Goods, he will disinherite me. And I dare not, saith another, for my Husband, for he will be Railing, and tells me he will turn me out of Doors, he will beat me, and cut off my Legs. But I tell you, if any of these, or any other Things be prevalent with thee now as to keep thee from seeking after Christ in his Ways; they will also be so prevalent with God against thee, as to make him cast off thy Soul, because thou didst rather trust Man than God, and Delight in the embracing of Man, rather than in the Favour of the Lord.

2. Again, the Scripture saith, *He that being*
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often reproved, hardneth his Neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without Remedy, Prov. 22. 1. Yet many are so far from turning, tho' they have been convinced of their wretched State an hundred Times, that when Convictions or Trouble for Sin comes on their Consciences, they go on still in the same Manner, resisting and cloaking the same, though Remediless Destruction be hard on their Heels.

3. Again, thou hast heard say, *Unless a Man be born again, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, Joh. 3. 3, 5, 7.* And yet thou goest on in a natural State, an unregenerate Condition: Nay, thou dost resolve never to turn nor be changed, tho' Hell be appointed on Purpose to swallow up such, *Isai. 14. 9. Psal. 9. 17. The Wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the Nations that forget God.*

4. Again, Scripture saith plainly, *That he that loveth and maketh a Lye, shall have his Part in the Lake that burneth with Fire & Brimstone, Rev. 21. 8, 27.* And yet thou art so far from dreading it, that it is thy Delight to jest and jeer, and lye for a Penny, or Two-pence, or Six-pence Gain. And also if thou make the rest of thy Companions merry, by telling Things that are false of them, that are better than thy self, thou dost not care a Straw: Or if thou hearest a Lye from, or of another, thou wilt tell it and swear to the Truth of it. O miserable!

5. Thou hast heard, *That he that believeth not shall be damned, Mark 16. 16. And that all Men have not Faith, 2 Thess. 3. 2.* and yet thou dost so much disregard these Things, that it is like thou didst scarce ever so much as examine seriously,

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ly whether thou wert in the Faith or no ; but dost content thy self with the Hypocrite's Hope, which at the last God will cut off, count it no better than the Spider's Web, *Joh. 8. 13, 14.* or the House that is built on the Sands, *Luke 6. 49.* Nay, thou Peradventure, dost flatter thy self, and thinkest that thy Faith is as good as the best of 'em all ; when, alas, poor Soul, thou may'st have no saving Faith at all ; which thou hast not, if thou be not born again, and made a new Creature, *2 Cor. 2. 17.*

6. Thou hast heard, That *he that neglects God's great Salvation, shall never escape his great Damnation*, *Heb. 2. 3.* compar'd with *Luke 14. 24* and *Rev. 14. 19, 20.* And yet when thou art invited, intreated, and beseeched to come in (*Luke 14. 17. 18. 2 Cor. 5. 19, 20. Rom. 12. 1.*) thou wilt make any Excuse to serve thy turn. Nay, thou wilt be so Wicked, as to put off Christ Time after Time, notwithstanding he is so freely proffer'd to thee ; a little Ground or a few Oxen, a Farm, a Wife, a Two-penny Matter, a Play, nay, the Fear of a Mock, a Scoffer, a Jeerer is of greater Weight to draw thee forward.

7. And thou hast heard, That *whosoever will be a Friend of the World, is the Enemy of God*, *Jam. 4. 4.* But thou regardest not these Things, but contrariwise, rather than thou wilt be out of the Friendship and Favour of this World, thou wilt Sin against thine own Conscience, and get thy self into Favour by fawning and flattering of the World. Yea, rather than thou wilt go without it, thou wilt dissemble, lie, backbite thy Neighbour, and an hundred other Tricks thou wilt have.

8. You have heard that the Day of Judgment is near in which you and I, all of us must appear before the Tribunal of Jesus Christ, and there be made to give an Account to him, that is ready to Judge the Quick and the Dead, even of all that ever we did, yea, of all our Sins in Thought, Word and Deed, and shall certainly be damned for them too, if we close not in with our Lord Jesus Christ, and what he hath done and suffered for eternal Life; and that not nationally or traditionally, but really & savingly, in the Power, and by the Operation of the Spirit through Faith, *Ecc. 11. 9, 12, 14. Heb. 9. 27. Acts 10. 42. Acts 17. 30, 31. 2 Cor. 5. 10. Rev. 20. 12. And I saw the Dead, small & great, stand before God, and the Books were opened, and another Book was opened, which is the Book of Life, and the Dead were judged out of those Things that were written in the Books.* There is the Book of the Creatures; the Book of Conscience, the Book of the Lord's Remembrance, the Book of the Law, the Book of the Gospel. (*Rom. 1. 20. compare with Rom. 2. 12, 15. Rev. 6. 19. Job. 12. 48.*) Then shall he separate them one from another, as a Shepherd divideth his Sheep on the Right-hand, and the Goats on his Left (*Mat. 25. 30, 31, 32.*) And shall say to them on his Right-hand, come ye Blessed, ver. 34. But to the other, go, or depart ye cursed, ver. 41. Yet notwithstanding the Scriptures do so plainly and plentifully speak of the Things, alas! Who is there that is weaned from the World, and from their Sins and Pleasures, to fly the Wrath to come? *Mat. 3. 7.* Notwithstanding the Scripture saith also, *That Heaven and Earth shall pass away, rather than one Jay, or one Tit-*

He of the Word shall fail, till all be fulfilled, they are so certain, Luke 22. 27.

But leaving the Threatnings, let us come to the Promises, and speak somewhat of them, and you may see how light Men make of them, and how little they set by them, notwithstanding the Mouth of the Lord hath spoken them.

As first, *Turn ye Fools, ye Scorners, ye simple Ones at my Reproof, and behold, I will pour out my Spirit upon you, Prov. 1. 23.* And yet Persons had rather be in their Foolishness and Scorning still, and had rather embrace some filthy Lust, than the Holy Undeiled, and Blessed Spirit of Christ, through the Promise, tho' by it, as many as receive it, *are sealed unto the Day of Redemption, Eph. 4. 30.* And altho' he that lives & dies without it, is none of Christ's *Rom. 8. 9.*

2. God hath said, *If thou do but come to him in Christ, Though your Sins be as red as Scarlet, they shall be as white as Snow; and he will by no Means cast thee away (compare Isa. 1. 18. with John 6. 27.) yet poor Souls will not come to Christ, that they may have Life (John 5. 41.) but rather after their hard'n'd & impenitent Heart, treasure up unto themselves Wrath against the Day of Wrath, and Revelation of the righteous Judgment of God, Rom. 2. 4, 5, 6.*

3. Christ Jesus hath said in the Word of Truth, *That if any Man will serve and follow him, where he is, there shall also his Servant be, John 12. 16.* but yet poor Souls choose rather to follow Sin, Satan and the World, tho' their Companions be Devils and damned Souls for ever, *Mat. 25. 41.*

4. He hath also said, *Seek first the Kingdom of God, and all other Things shall be added, But I see*

whoso will seek after the Kingdom of Heaven first for them; for they will take the first Time, while Time serves to get the Things of this Life. And if it be so, that they must needs seek after Heaven, or else be damned, they must stay till they have more Leisure, or till they can better attend to it; or till they have other Things handsome about them, or till they are older; when they have little else to do; or when they come to be Sick, and die. Then *Lord have Mercy upon them!* Tho' it be ten Thousand to one but they perish for ever.

For commonly the Lord hath this Way to deal with Sinners, who put him off when he is striving with them, *either to laugh at their Calamity, and mock when their Fear cometh* (Prov. 1. 26, 28.) or else send them to the Gods they have served, which are the Devils, *Judg. 10. 13, 14. Go to the Gods ye have served, and let them deliver you* (saith he) Compare this with *John 8. 44.*

5. He hath said, *There is no Man that forsaketh Father, or Mother, Wife, Children or Lands for his Sake and the Gospel, but shall have a hundred Fold in this World, with Persecutions, and in the World to come Life everlasting*, Mark 10. 29, 30.

But Men for the most Part, are so far off from believing the Certainty of this, they will scarce lose the earning of a Penny to hear the Word of God, the Gospel of Salvation. Nay, they will neither go themselves, nor suffer others to go (if they can help it) without threatening to do them a Mischief, if it lie in their Way: Nay further, many are so far from parting from any worldly Gain for Christ's sake, and the Gospels, that they are still striving, by hook and

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and took, as we say by swearing, lying, cozening stealing, covetousness, extortion, oppression, forgery, bribery, flattery, or any other Way to get more, tho' they get together with these, Death, Wrath Damnation, Hell, the Devil, and all the Plagues that God can pour upon them. And if any do not run into the same Excess of Riot, but rather for all their Threats, will be so bold and careless (as they call it) as to follow the Ways of God; if they can do no more, yet they will whet their Tongues like a Sword to wound them, and do them the greatest Mischief they can both in speaking against them to Neighbours, to Wives, to Husbands, to Landlords, and raising false Reports of them. But let such take heed, lest they be in such a State, and woful Condition as he was in, who said in Vexation and Anguish of Soul, *One Drop of cold Water to cool my Tongue.*

Thus might I add many Things out of the Holy Writ, both Threatnings and Promises, besides those heavenly Counsels, loving Reproofs, free Invitations to all sorts of Sinners, both old and young, rich and poor, bond and free, wise and unwise. All which have been, now are, and is to be feared, as long as this World lasts, will be trampled under the Feet of those Swine (I call not Men) who will continue in the same. But take a Review of some of them.

1. Counsel.

What Heavenly Counsel is that where Christ saith, *buy of me Gold tried with Fire, that thou mayest be rich, & white Rayment that thou mayest be clothed, that the Shame of thy Nakedness do not appear, Rev 3. 17, 18* Also that, *Ho ev'ry one that thirsteth, come to the Waters: Tea, come, buy Wine*

Signs from Hell: Or,
Wine and Milk without Money, and without
Price, Isa. 55. 1. Hear and your Souls shall live,
v. 3. Lay hold of my Strength, that you may make
Peace with me, and you shall make Peace with
me, Isa. 27. 5.

2. Instruction. *What Instruction is here?*

Hear Instruction and be wise, and refuse it not.
Blessed is the Man that heareth me, (saith Christ)
watching daily at my Gates, waiting at the Posts of
my Doors: For whoso findeth me, findeth Life, and
shall obtain Favour of the Lord, Prov. 8. 34, 33, 34.
35. Take heed that no man deceive you by any Means.
Labour not for the Meat that perisheth, but for
that which endureth unto everlasting Life, John
9. 31. Strive to enter into the straight Gate, Luke
13. 24. Believe on the Lord Jesus, & thou shalt
be saved, Acts 15. 31. Believe not every Spirit,
but try the Spirits. Quench not the Spirit. Lay
hold on eternal Life. Let your Light so shine
before Men, that they may see your good Works,
and glorifie your Father, which is in Heaven,
Mat. 5. 6. Take heed and beware of Hypocrisie;
watch and be sober, Learn of me (saith Christ)
Come unto me.

3. Fore-warning.

What Forewarning is here?

Because there is Wrath, beware; lest he take away
with his stroke, then a great Ransom cannot deliver
thee, Joh. 36. 18. Be ye not Mockers, lest your Hands
be made strong, for I have heard from the Lord of
Hosts, a Consumprion determined on the whole Earth,
Isa. 28. 22. Beware therefore, lest that come upon you
that is written: Behold, ye Despisers, & wonder &
perish For behold I work a Work in your Days,
which ye shall in no wise believe, tho' a Man de-
clare it unto you, Acts 13. 40, 41. Let him that
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thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall, 1 Cor. 16. 12. Watch and Pray, lest ye enter into Temptation, Luke 22. 40, 42. Let us fear therefore lest a Promise being made, and lest us of entring into his Rest, any of you should seem to come short of it, Heb. 4. 1. I will therefore put you in Remembrance, tho' you once knew this, how that the Lord having saved the People out of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not, Jude 5. Hold fast that thou hast, let no man take thy Crown, Rev. 3. 11.

4. Comfort.

What Comfort is here ?

He that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out, Joh. 6. 37. Come unto me all ye that labour, and are heavy Laden, and I will give you Rest, Mat. 11. 28. Be of good Chear, thy Sins are forgiven thee. I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee (for) I have loved thee with an everlasting Love, Jer. 13. 3. I lay down my Life for my Sheep, I lay down my Life, that they may have Life: I am come that they might have Life, & that they may have it more abundantly. I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the Day of Salvation have I succoured thee. 2 Cor. 6. 2. Tho' their Sins be as Scarlet, they shall be as white as Snow, tho' they be as Crimson, they shall be as Wool. For I have blotted out as a thick Cloud thy Transgressions, and as a Cloud thy Sins; return unto me, for I have redeemed thee, Isa. 44. 22.

5. Grief to those that fell short.

O sad Grief!

How have I hated Instruction, and my Heart despised Reproof, and have not obeyed the Voice of my Teachers, nor inclined mine Ear to them that instructed me, Pro. 7. 11, 12, 16. They shall curse their King

King and their God, and look upward. And they shall look to the Earth, and behold Trouble and Darknes, and Dimness of Anguish, & they shall be driven into Darknes. Isa. 8. ver. 21, 22. He hath dispersed abroad, he hath given to the Poor, his Righteousness endureth for ever---The Wicked shall see it and be grieved, he shall gnash his teeth, and melt away; the Desire of the Wicked shall perish, Psal. 112. 9, 10.

There shall be weeping, when ye shall see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the Prophets in the Kingdom of Heaven, and your selves thrust out, Luk. 13. 26, 27, 28, 29. all which Things are slighted by the World.

Thus much in short touching this, That ungodly Men undervalue the Scriptures, & give no Credit to them, when the Truth that is contained in them, is held forth in Simplicity unto them, but rather cry out, *Nay, but if one should rise from the Dead*, then they think something might be done; when alas, tho' Signs & Wonders are wrought by the Hand of those that Preach the Gospel, those poor Creatures would never the sooner Convert, tho' they suppose they should, as is evident by the Carriages of their Forerunners, who albeit the Lord Jesus Christ himself did confirm his Doctrine by Miracles, as opening blind Eyes casting out of Devils, & raising the Dead; they were so far from receiving either him, or his Doctrine, that they put him to Death for his Pains: tho' he had done so many Miracles among them; yet they believed not in him, *Joh. 12. 7.* But to pass this, I shall lay down some of the Grounds of their rejecting and undervaluing the Scripture, and so pass on.

1. Because they do not believe that they are the

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the Word of God, but rather suppose them to be the Inventions of Men, written by some Politicians, on purpose to make poor ignorant People to submit to some Religion & Government. They do not say this, yet their Practice testifie the same; as he that when he hears the Words of the Curse, yet blesteth himself in his Heart, and sayeth he shall have Peace, tho' God sayeth he shall have none, *Deut.* 29. 18, 19, 20. And this must needs be, for did but Men believe this, that it is the Word of God, then they must believe that he that spake it, is true, therefore shall every Word and Tittle be fulfilled. And if they come once to this, unless they be stark Mad, they will have a Care how they throw themselves under the Law of eternal Vengeance. For the Reason why the *Thessalonians* received the Word of God, and not the Word of man, which did effectually work in them by their thus believing, *1 Thes.* 3. 2, 13, 14. *When we received the Word, which ye heard of us, saith he, ye received it not as the Word of Man, but as (it is indeed) the Word of God, which effectually worketh in you that believe.* So that did a Man but receive it in hearing, or reading, or meditating, as it is the Word of God, they would be converted. *But the Word preached doth not profit, not being mixed with Faith in them that hear it, Heb.* 4. 1, 2.

2. Because they do not indeed see themselves by Nature Heirs of that exceeding Wrath and Vengeance that the Scriptures testifie of. For did they but consider, what God intends to do with those that live and die in a natural State, it would either sink them into Despair, or make them to fly for Refuge to the hope that is set them. But if there be never such Sins committed,

mitted, and never so great Wrath denounced, and the Time of Execution be never so near ; yet if the Party that is guilty be senseless, altogether Ignorant of that Misery he is in by Nature ; I say, take him at another Time when he is a little awakened, and then you will hear him roar, and cry out so long as Trouble is upon him, and a Sense of the Wrath of God hanging over his Head, *Good Sirs, what must I do to be sav'd ?*

Tho' the same Man at another Time (when his Conscience is fallen asleep, & grown hard) will lie like the Smith's Dog at the Foot of the Anvil, tho' the Fire sparks fly in his Face. But as I said before, when any one is a little awakened, O what work will one Verse, one Line, nay, one Word of the holy Scriptures make in his Ears ! He cannot eat, sleep, work, keep Company with his former Companions ; and all because he is afraid that the Damnation spoken of in Scripture, will fall to his Share, like *Balaam*, who said, *I cannot go beyond the Word of the Lord*, Num. 22. 18. So long as he had something of the Word of the Lord with Authority, Severity & Power on his Heart ; but another Time he could teach *Balak* to cast a stumbling Block before the Children of Israel, Rev. 2. 14.

3. Because the carnal Priests do tickle the Ears of their Hearers with vain Philosophy & Deceit, and thereby harden their Hearts against the Simplicity of the Gospel and Word of God, which Things the Apostle admonish'd those that have a Mind to close in with Christ to avoid, Col. 2. 8. saying, *Beware lest any Man (be he what he will) spoil you thro' Philosophy and vain Deceit, after the Traditions of Men, & Rudiments of the World, and not after Christ : And you who muzzle up your*

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your People in Ignorance with *Aristotle, Plato,* and the rest of the heathenish Philosophers, and preach little, if any Thing of Christ rightly; I say unto you, that you will find that you have sinned against God, and beguiled your Hearers; when God shall in the Judgment-day, lay the Cause of the Damnation of many Thousands of Souls to your Charge, and say, *He will require their Blood at your Hands,* Ezek. 33. 6.

4. Another Reason why the carnal unbelieving World do so slight the Scriptures, the Word of God, is because the Judgment spoken of in the Scripture, is not presently executed on the Transgressors. *Because Sentence against an evil Act, is not speedily executed, therefore the Hearts of the Sons of Men are wholly set in them to do evil,* Eccl. 8. 11. Because God doth not presently strike the poor Wretch as soon as he Sins, but waits & forbears, & is patient; therefore the World judging God to be unfaithful, go to it again and again, & every Time grow harder, till at last God is forced, either to stretch out his mighty Power to turn them, or else send Death with the Devil and Hell to fetch them. *Thou thoughtest (saith God) that I was altogether such a one as thyself, but I will reprove thee, & set them in Order before thy Face. Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in Pieces, and there be none to deliver,* Psal. 50. 20, 21.

5. Another Reason why the blind World do slight the Authority of Scripture, is, because they give ear to the Devil, who thro' his Subtilty casteth false Evasions, & corrupt Interpretation on them, rendring them not so point-blank the Mind of God, and a Rule for Direction to poor Souls, perswading them that they must give ear & way

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to something else besides, & beyond that : Or
else he labours to render it Vile & Contemptible;
by perswading them, that it is a dead Letter ; when
indeed they know not what they say, nor whereof
they affirm. For the Scripture is not so dead, but
that the Knowledge of it is able to make any
Man wise unto Salvation, thro' Faith and Love
which is in Christ Jesus, 2 *Tim.* 3. 15. And is
profitable for Instruction, Reproof and Correction
in Righteousness, that the Man of God may be
thoroughly furnish'd unto all good Works, *ver.* 17.

And where it is said, the Letter killeth, he
meaneth the Law, as it is the Ministration of Dam-
nation, or a Covenant of Works, and so indeed
it doth kill, and must do so, because it is Just,
forasmuch as the Party that is under the same,
is not able to yield to it, a compleat & continual
Obedience. But yet I will call *Peter & Paul*
to Witness, that the Scriptures are of a very
glorious Concernment, in as much as in them
is held forth to us the Way of Life ; & also, in
that they do administer good Ground of Hope
to us, *Rom.* 15. 4. *For whatsoever Things were*
written afore-time, were written for our learning,
that we thro' Patience & Comfort of the Scrip-
tures, might have Hope. And again, *Rom.* 16. 25,
26. *Now to him that is of Power to establish you*
according to my Gospel, & the preaching of Jesus
Christ ; according to the Revelation of the Myste-
ry which was kept hid since the World began, but
is now made manifest, and by the Scripture of the
Prophets, according to the Commandment of the e-
verlasting God, made known to all Nations for the
Obedience of Faith. And therefore whosoever
they be that slight the Scriptures, they slight
that which is no less than the Word of God ; and
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they who slight that, slight him that spake it; and they that do so, let them look to themselves, for God will be revenged on such.

Verse 31. And he said unto him, if they hear not Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded, tho' one rise from the Dead.

ANd he said] That is, and God made Answer to the Words spoken in the Verse before, *And he said unto him, if they hear not Moses, &c.* As if he had said, *Moses* was a Man of great Renown, a Man of worthy Note, a Man that talked with God Face to Face, as Man speaketh to his Friend; Let who will question them, I will own them, credit them, bless them that close in with them, and curse those that reject them.

I my self sent the Prophets, they did not run of their own Heads; I gave them Commission; I thrust them out, & told them what they should say. In a Word, they have told the World what my Mind is to do, both to Sinners & to Saints; *They have Moses and the Prophets, let them hear them.* Therefore, he that shall reject & turn his Back either upon the Threatning, Counsels, Admonitions, Inventions, Promises, or whatsoever else I have commanded them to speak, as to Salvation & Life, & to Directions therein, shall be sure to have a Share in the many Curses that they have spoken, & the Doctrine that is pronounced by them. Again, *If they hear not Moses & the Prophets, &c.* As if he had said, Thou wouldst have me send one from the Dead unto them; what needs that? They have my Mind already, I have declared unto them, what I intend to stand to, both for saving them that believe, and damning them that do not. That therefore which

I have said, I will make good, whether they hear or forbear. And as for this Desire of yours, you had as good desire me to make a new Bible, and so to revoke my first Sayings, by the Mouth of my Prophets. But I am God & not Man, & my Word is immutable, unchangeable, and shall stand as fast as my Decrees make it ; *Heaven & Earth shall pass away, but one Foot or Title of my Word shall not pass.* If thou hadst ten Thousand Brethren, & every one in Danger of losing his Soul, if they did not close in with what is contained & recorded in the Scriptures of Truth, they must even every one of them perish, & be for ever damned in Hell ; for the Scriptures cannot be broken. I did not send 'em so unadvisedly to recal it again by another Consideration. No, *For I speak in Righteousness & in Judgment,* Isai. 63. 1, 2, 3. and in much Wisdom & Counsel. It being therefore gone out of my Mouth in this Manner, *It shall not return in vain, until it hath accomplished the thing whereto I have sent it.*

But again, Thou supposest that Miracles and Wonders will work more on them, which makes thee say, *Send one from the Dead.* But herein thou art mistaken, for I have prov'd them with that once again, by more than one or two, or three of my Servants. How many Miracles did my Servant *Moses* work by Commandment from me in the Land of *Egypt*, at the Red-sea & in the Wilderness ? Yet they of that Generation, were never the sooner converted for that, but notwithstanding rebelled & lusted, & in their Hearts turned back into *Egypt*, *Acts 7.* How many Miracles did *Samuel*, *David*, *Elias*, *Elisha*, *Daniel*, & the Prophets, together with my Son, who raised the Dead, cast out Devils, made them to see that were

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born blind, gave & restored Limbs? Yet for all this (as I said before) they hated him, they crucified him. I raised him again from the Dead, & he appear'd to his Disciples, who were call'd, & chosen & Faithful, & he gavethem Commandment & Commission, to go and testifie the Truth of this to the World, & to confirm the same, he enabled them to speak with divers Tongues, & to work Miracles most plentifully; yet there was great Persecution raised against them, insomuch that but a few died in their Beds. And therefore, tho' thou thinkest that a Miracle will do so much with the World, yet I say, No: *For if they will not believe Moses & the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one should rise from the Dead.*

They that regard not the holy Scriptures, to turn to God, finding them to testify of his Goodness & Mercy, there is but little Hopes of their Salvation: *For they will not, mark, they will not be persuaded, tho' one should rise from the Dead.* This Truth is confirmed by Jesus himself: If you read *John 5.* where the Lord is speaking of himself, that he is the very Christ, he brings in four or five Witnesses to back what he said. 1. *John Baptist.* 2. The Works that his Father gave him to do. 3. His Father speaking from Heaven. 4. The Testimony of the Scriptures; when all this was done, seeing yet they would not believe, he lays the Fault upon one of these two Things.

1. Their regarding an Esteem among Men.

2. Their not believing of the Prophets Writings, even *Moses & the rest.* *For had ye believed Moses, (saith he) ye would have believed me. For he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his Writings, how can ye believe my Words?* Now, I say, he that shall slight the Scriptures, & the Testimony of

the Prophets in them concerning *Jesus Christ*, must needs be in great Danger of losing his Soul, if he abide in this Condition : Because he that flights the Testimony, doth also flight the Thing testified of, let him say the contrary never so often. For as *Jesus Christ* hath here laid down the Reason of Mens receiving him, so the Apostle in another Place lays down the Reason again, with an high & mighty Aggravation, *1 John 5. 10.* saying, *He that believeth on the Son of God, hath the Witness in himself: He that believeth not God, hath made him a Liar, because he believeth not the Record, mark, the Record that God gave of his Son.* The Record, you will say, what is that ? Why, even the Testimony that God gave of him by the Mouth of all the Prophets, since the World began, *Acts 3. 20.* That is God sending his Holy Spirit into the Hearts of his Servants, the Prophets and Apostles : He by his Spirit in them, did bear Witness or Record to the Truth of Salvation by his Son *Jesus*, both before & after his coming. And thus is that Place also to be understood, which saith, *There are three that bare Record in Earth, the Spirit, the Water, & the Blood.* That is, the Spirit in the Apostles, which preach'd him to the World, as is clear if you read seriously, *1 Thess. 4. 8.* The Apostle speaking of *Jesus Christ*, and Obedience to God thro' him, saith thus, *Now he that despiseth, despiseth not us, but God :* But it is you that speak ; true, but it is by & thro' the Spirit, *He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not Man, but God, who also hath given us of his Holy Spirit.* This is therefore a mighty Confirmation of this Truth, that he that flights the Record or Testimony, that God by his Spirit, in his Prophets & Apostles, hath testified unto us, flights the Testimony

mony of the Spirit, who moved them to speak these Things; & if so, then I would fain know, how any Man can be saved by Jesus Christ, that flights the Testimony concerning Christ; yea, the Testimony of his own Spirit, concerning his own self? 'Tis true, Men may pretend to have the Testimony of the Spirit, & from that Conceit, set a low Esteem on the holy Scriptures; but that Spirit that dwelleth in them, & teacheth them so to do, it is no better than the Spirit of Satan, tho' it calls it self by the Name of the Spirit of Christ. *To the Law therefore, and to the Testimony, try them by that; If they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no Light in them.*

The Apostle Peter when he speaks of the glorious Voice, that he had from his excellent Majesty; saying of Christ, *This is my beloved Son, hear him*, saith thus to them whom he wrote unto; *You have also a more sure Word of Prophecy*, (or of the Prophets, for so you may read it) *unto which you do well that you take heed.* That is, though we tell you, that we had this excellent Testimony from his own Mouth, evidently, yet you have the Prophets; We tell you this, and you need not doubt of the Truth of; but if you should, yet you may not, must not, ought not to question them; Search therefore into them, until the Day dawn, and the Day-star arise in your Hearts: That is until by the same Spirit that gave forth the Scriptures, you find the Truth confirmed to your Souls, which you have Recorded in the Scriptures. That this Word of Prophecy or of the Prophets, is the Scriptures; read on; *For (saith he) knowing this first, that no Prophecy of the Scriptures*

is of any private Interpretation, &c. 2 Pet. 18, 19, 20. But you will say, What need all this ado, & why is all Time and Pains spent in speaking to this, that is surely believed already? This is a Thing received by all, that they believe the Scriptures to be the Word of God, the sure Word of Prophecy, and therefore you need not spend your Time in proving these Things, and the Truth of them, seeing we grant and confess the Truth of it, before you begin to speak your Judgment of them.

Ans. The Truths of God cannot be born witness unto too often, you may as well say, You need not Preach Jesus Christ so much, seeing he hath been, and is receiv'd for the true *Messias* already.

2. Tho' many may suppose that they do believe the Scriptures, yet if they were but well examin'd, you will find them either by Word or Mouth, else by Conversation to deny, reject and slight the Holy Scriptures. 'Tis true, there is a Notional & Historical Assent in the Head, I say, *in the Head* of many, or most, to the Truth contain'd in Scripture: But try them, I say, and you will find but a little, if any of the Faith of the Operation of God in the Hearts of poor Men, to believe the Scriptures, and Things contained in them. Many, yea, most Men believe the Scriptures, as they believe a Fable, a Story, a Tale, of which there is no certainty! but alas! there are but few do in Deed & in Truth, believe the Scriptures to be the very Word of God.

Obj. But you will say, this seems strange to me.

Ans. And it seems as true to me: And I doubt not, but to make it manifest, that there are but few,

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few, yea, very few that do effectually (for that I aim at) believe the Scriptures, & the Truth contain'd in, & spoken by them. But to make this appear, and that to purpose, (if God will) I shall lay down the several Operations that the Scriptures have on them, who do effectually believe the Things contained in them.

1. He that doth effectually believe the Scriptures, hath in the first Place been kill'd, I say killed by the Authority of the Holy Scriptures, struck stark dead in a spiritual Sense, by the Holy Scriptures, being set home by that Spirit which gave them forth upon the Soul. *The Letter killeth*: The Letter strikes Men dead, 2Cor. 2. 6. And this *Paul* witnesseth and found, before he could say, *I believe all that the Prophets have spoken*. Where he saith, *I was alive without the Law once*. That is my natural State, before the Law was set on my Heart with Power: *But when the Commandment came, Sin revived, and I died*, Rom. 7. 6. *And that Law that was ordained to Life, I found to be unto Death*. For Sin taking Occasion by the Commandment, deceived me, & thereby slew me, ver. 10. Now that which is call'd the Letter in Cor. is call'd the Law, in Ro. 7. which by its Power and Operation, as it is wielded by the Spirit of God, doth in the first Place kill and slay all those that are enabled to believe the Scriptures. I kill, saith God: That is, with my Law. I pierce, I wound, I prick Men into the very Heart, by shewing them their Sins against the Law, Deut. 32. 69. Acts 2. 36, 37. And he that is Ignorant of this, is also Ignorant of, and doth not really and effectually believe the Scripture.

But

But you will say, *How doth the Law kill and strike dead the poor Creature ?*

Ans. First, the Letter or Law doth kill thus : It is set Home upon the Soul, and discovers to the Soul its Transgressions against the Law, & shews the Soul also, that it cannot compleatly satisfie the Justice of God, for the Breach of his Law, therefore it is condemned, *Joh. 3. 19.* Mark, *He that believeth not, is condemned already :* To wit, by the Law, that is, the Law doth condemn him already for his Sins against it : as it is written, *Cursed is every one that continueth not in all Things that are written in the Book of the Law, to do them, Gal. 3. 10.* Now all Men as they come into the World, are in this Condition, that is condemned by the Law. Yet not believing their Condition, by the Law really, they do not also believe really and effectually the Law that doth condemn 'em. For as Men have but a Notion of the One, that is, their Condemnation, because of Sins against the Law : so they have but a Notion of the Condemning, killing and destroying Power of the Law : For as the one is, so in these always is the other. There is no Man that doth really believe the Law and Gospel, further than they do feel the Power and Authority of 'em in their Hearts : *Ye err not knowing the Scriptures, nor the Power of God.* Now this Letter, or Law is not to be taken in the largest Sense, but is strictly to be tied to the Ten Commandments, whose proper Work, is only by shewing the Soul its Sin against the Law, to kill & there leaves him stark Dead, not giving him the least Life, or Support, or Comfort, but leaves the Soul in an helpless & hopeless Condition,

as from it self, or any other meer Creature.

'Tis true, the Law hath laid all Men for dead, as they come into the World ; but all Men do not see themselves dead, until they see the Law that struck them dead, striking in their Souls, and having struck them that fatal Blow : As a Man that is fast asleep in a House, & that on Fire about his Ears, and he not knowing of it, because he is asleep ; even so because poor Souls are asleep in Sin, though the Wrath of God, the Curse of his Law, and the Flames of Hell have beset them round about, yet they do not believe it, because they are asleep in Sin. Now he that is awakened and sees this, sees that through this he is a dead Man : Even so that they do see their State by Nature, being such a sad Condition, do also see themselves by that Law to be dead Men naturally.

But now, when didst thou feel the Power of this first part of the Scripture, the Law, so mighty as to strike thee Dead? If not, thou dost not so much as verily believe that part of the Scripture, that doth contain the Law in it, to be the Truth of God. Yet if thou shouldst have felt something, I say something of the killing Power of the Law of God in thine Heart, this is not an Argument to prove that thou believest all the Things contained in Scripture, for there is Gospel as well as Law, and therefore I shall speak to that also ; that is, whether thou hast felt the Power of the Gospel, as well as something of the Power of the Law.

1. That thou hast found the Power of the Gospel, and so believed it, thou hast found it thus with thy Soul.

2. Thou

2. Thou hast been shewed by the Word or Truth of the Gospel, in the Light of the Spirit of Christ, that by Nature thou wert without the true Faith of the Son of God in thy Soul : For when *He, the Spirit is come, he shall shew Men that they believe not in me*, saith Christ, *Joh. 16. 9.* Mark, tho' thou hast, as I said before, felt somewhat of the Power of the Law, Letter or Ten Commandments, yet as thou hast not been brought to this, to see by the Spirit in the Gospel, that thou art without Faith by Nature, thou hast not yet tasted, much less believed any Part of the Gospel. For the Gospel & the Law are too distinct Covenants. And they that are under the Law, may be convinced by it, and so believe the Law or first Covenant, and yet in the mean time to be a Stranger to the Covenant of Promise, that is the Gospel, & so have no Hope in them, (*Eph. 2. 12.*) There is not any Promise that can be savingly believed, until the Soul be by the Gospel converted to Jesus Christ. For tho' Men do think never so much, that they believe the Things, or the Word of the Gospel of our Salvation, yet unless they have the Work of Grace in their Soul, they do not, cannot, rightly believe the Things contained in the Scriptures.

3. Dost thou in Deed & in Truth, believe the Scriptures to be the Word of God? Then the Things contain'd in them, especially the Things of the Gospel, are very excellent to thy Soul ; as the Birth of Christ, his Death, Resurrection, Intercession, & second Coming. O, how precious and excellent are they to thy Soul ! Infomuch that thou regardest nothing in Comparison of them ? O, it is Christ's Birth, Death, Blood, Resurrection, &c. according to the Scrip-

tures,

tures, that thou dost rejoyce in exceedingly, and abundantly desire after! Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom tho' now you see him not, yet believing, ye rejoyce, with Joy unspeakable, and full of Glory, *1 Cor. 13. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.* compared with *Phil. 3. 6, 7, 8. 1 Pet. 1. 8.*

4. Dost thou believe the Scriptures to be the Word of God? Then thou standest in Awe of, and dost much Reverence them. Why, they are in the Word of God, the true Sayings of God; they are the Counsel of God; they are his Promises and his Threatnings. Poor Souls are apt to think, if I could hear God speak to me from Heaven with an audible Voice, then sure I should be serious and believe it. But truly, if God should speak to thee from Heaven, except thou wert converted, thou wouldst not regard, nor really believe him. But if thou dost believe the Scriptures, thou seest that they are the Truth, as really as if God should speak to thee from *Heaven*, through the Clouds, and therefore never flatter thy self foolishly thinking, that if it were so and so; then thou couldest believe, I tell thee, saith Christ, *If they believe not Moses and the Prophets, neither will they believe, tho' one should rise from the Dead.* But

5. Dost thou believe the Scriptures to be the Word of God? Then thro' Faith in Christ, thou endeavourest to have thy Life squared according to the Scriptures, both in Word & Practice. Nay, I say, thou may'st have, tho' thou do not believe them all. My meaning is, that if thou do believe none but the Ten Commandments, thy Life may be according to them, a legal holy Life; and if thou do believe the Gospel too, then thy Life will be the Faith our Lord Jesus

O

Christ;

Christ ; that is, either thou wilt live in the blessed and holy Enjoyment, of what is testified in the Scripture, concerning the glorious Things of the Lord Jesus Christ, or else thou wilt be exceedingly panting after them. For the Scriptures carry such a blessed Beauty in them, to that Soul that hath Faith in the Things contained in them, that they do take the Heart, and captivate the Soul of him that believeth them into the Love and Liking of them, believing all Things that are written in the Law and the Prophets, and have Hope towards God, that there shall be a Resurrection of the Dead, both of the Just & Unjust ; and herein do I exercise my self, to have always a Conscience void of Offence, both towards God, and towards Man, *Acts 24. 14, 15, 16.*

6. He that believes the Scriptures to be the Word of God, if he do but suppose that any one Place of Scripture doth exclude him, and shut him out of, and from a Share in the Promises contained in them : O, it will trouble him, grieve him, perplex him : yea, he will not be satisfied until he be resolved, and the contrary sealed to his Soul, for he knows that the *Scriptures* are the Word of God, all Truth ; and therefore he knows that if any one Sentence doth exclude or bar him out for want of this, or the other Qualification ; he knows, also, that not the Word alone shuts him out, but he that speaks it, even God himself : and therefore he cannot, will not, be contented until he find his *Soul* and *Scripture* together (with the Things contained therein) to embrace each other, & a sweet Correspondency & Agreement between them. For you must know, that to him that believes the

Scriptures

Scriptures aright, the Promises, or Threatnings, are of more Power to comfort, or cast down, than all the Promises or Threatnings of all the Men in the World. And this was the Cause why the Martyrs of Jesus did so slight both the Promises of their Adversaries, when they would overcome them with proffering the great Things of this World unto them, and also their Threatnings when they told them they would rack them, hang them, burn them; *Acts 20. 24. None of these Things could prevail upon them, or against them*; because they did most really believe the *Scriptures*, and the Things contained in them; as is clearly found, & to be seen in *Heb. 11.* and also Mr. Fox's Records of their Brethren.

7 He that believeth the *Scriptures* to be the Word of God, believeth that Men must be born again, and also be Partakers of that Faith which is of the Operation of God (according as he hath read and believed) or else he must & shall be damned. And he that believeth this aright, will not be contented until (according as it is written) he doth partake of, & enjoy the New-birth, and until he do find thro' Grace, that Faith that is wrought by the Operation of God in his *Soul*. For this is the Cause why Men satisfie themselves with so slender a conceited Hope, that their *State* is good when it is nothing so namely, because they do not credit the *Scripture*: for did they, they would look into their own Hearts, and examine seriously whether that Faith, that Hope, that Grace which they think they have, be of that Nature, & wrought by that *Spirit* and Power which the *Scripture* speaketh of. I speak this of an effectual believing, without which all other is nothing unto *Salvation*. Now

then, because I would not be tedious, I shall at this Time lay down no more Discoveries, of such an one as doth savingly believe the *Scriptures*, & the Things contained in them, but shall speak a few Words of Examination, concerning the things already mention'd. As

1. Thou sayest thou dost in Deed & in Truth, effectually believe the *Scriptures*: I ask therefore, wast thou ever killed stark Dead by the Law or Letter, and made to see thy *Sins* against it, & left in an helpless Condition by the Law? For as I said, the proper Work of the Law is to slay the *Soul*, and to leave it dead in a helpless *State*. For it doth neither give the *Soul* any Comfort it self when it comes, nor doth it shew the *Soul* where Comfort is to be had; and therefore it is called *the Ministration of Condemnation*, as in *2 Cor. 3. 9. the Ministration of Death*, *2 Cor. 3. 7.* For tho' Men have a Notion of the blessed Word of God, as the Children had, yet before they be converted, it may truly be said of them, *Ye err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the Power of God*, *Mark 12. 24.*

2. You say you do believe the *Scriptures* to be the Word of God: I say again, examine, wert thou ever quickned from a dead State by the Power of the Spirit of Christ thro' the other Part of the Scripture; that is to say, by the Power of God, and his Son Jesus Christ, thro' the Covenant of Promise? I tell thee from the Lord, if thou hast, thou hast felt such a quickning Power in the Words of Christ, [*John 6.*] that thou hast been lifted out of that dead Condition, that thou before wert in; and that when thou wast under the Guilt of Sin the Curse of the Law, and the Power of the Devil,

Devil, and the Justice of the great God, thou hast been enabled by the Power of God, in Christ, revealed to thee by the Spirit through and by the Scripture to look Sin, Death, Hell, the Devil and Law, and all Things that are at Enmity with thee, with Boldness and Comfort in the Face, thro' the Blood, Death, Righteousness, Resurrection, & Intercession of Christ, made mention of in the Scripture.

3. Examine, Dost thou stand in Awe of Sinning against God, because he hath in the Scriptures commanded thee to abstain from it; Dost thou give Diligence to make thy Calling and Election sure, because God commanded it in Scripture? Dost thou examine thy self, whether thou be in the Faith or no, having a command in Scripture so to do? Or dost thou (notwithstanding what thou readest in the Scripture) follow the World, delight in Sin, neglecting coming to Jesus Christ, speak evil of the Saints, slight and make a Mock at the Ordinance of God, delight in wicked Company, and the like? Then know, that it is, because thou dost not in Deed and in Truth, believe the Scriptures effectually. For as I said before, if a Man do believe them, & that savingly, then he stands in Awe, he looks to his Steps, he turns his Feet from Evil, and endeavours to follow that which is Good, which God hath commanded in the Scriptures of Truth; yet not from a legal or natural Principle; that is, to seek for Life by doing that good Thing, but knowing that Salvation is already obtained for him by the Blood of that Man Christ Jesus on the Cross, because he believes the Scriptures, therefore (mark I pray) there-

fore I say, he labours to walk with his God in all Well-pleasing and Godliness, because the sweet Power of the Love of Christ which he feels in his Soul by the Spirit, according to the Scriptures, constrains him so to do, 2 Cor. 5. 14.

Consider, and regard these Things, and lay them to thy Heart, before it be too late to recover thy self by repenting of the one, and desiring to close in with the other. O, I say, Regard, regard, for Hell is hot, Gods Hand is up, the Law is resolved to discharge against thy Soul! The Judgment-day is at Hand, the Graves are ready to open, the Trumpet is near the sounding, the Sentence will e're long be past, and then you and I cannot call Time again.

As first, This will shew us that all you *Drun-kards, Whoremongers, Lyars, Thieves, Swearers, Backbiters,, Slanderers, Sciff-ers, at Goodness, &c.* I say, we may see by this that they which live in such Things, have not the Faith of these Things contain'd in their Hearts; seeing they Delight to practice those things that are forbidden, by and in them. And so they continuing living and dying in this State, we may conclude without Fear, that the Portions of Holy Scripture belong unto them, and shall for certain be fulfilled upon them, *He that believeth not, shall be damned, Mark 16. 16. The Unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God, 1 Cor. 6. 9, 10. But the Abominable, the Unbelieving, the Whoremonger, and all Lyars, shall have their part in the Lake that burneth with Fire and Brimstone, Rev. 21. 8. Depart ye Cursed into everlasting Fire, prepared for the Devil and his Angels, Mat. 25. 41. Depart, depart from*

me, for I will not save you. Depart, for my Blood shall not at all wash you. Depart, for you shall not set one Foot into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Depart ye cursed, ye are cursed of God, cursed of his Law, curs'd of me, curs'd of the Saints, and curs'd by the Angels, curs'd all over, nothing but curs'd, and therefore depart from me, And whether ? Into everlasting Fire ; Fire that would scald, scorch, burn & flame to purpose ; *Fire hot shall never be quenched*, Mark 9. Fire that will last to all Eternity.

First, Dost thou delight to Sin against plain Commands ? *Thou art gone.*

Secondly, Dost thou slight & scorn the Counsels contain'd in the Scriptures, and continue in so doing ? *Then thou art gone.*

Thirdly, Dost thou continually neglect to come to Christ, and usest Arguments in thine own Heart to satisfy thy Soul with so doing ? *Then thou art gone*, Luke 14 17, 18. compared with Ver. 24. and Heb. 2-3. *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a Salvation ? How shall we escape ?* that is, there is no Way to escape.

First, Because God hath said we shall not, Heb. 12. 25. *See that ye refuse not him that speaketh ; for if they escaped not, who refused him that spake on Earth (that was Moses) much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from Heaven.*

2. Because he hath not only said they shall not, but also hath bound it with an Oath, saying, *So I swear in my Wrath, they should not enter into my Rest*, Heb. 3. 11. To whom did he swear, that they should not enter into his Rest ? *Answer, To them that believe not ; So we see*

*Sighs from Hell: Or,
see they could not enter in, because of Unbelief.
Verse 18, 19.*

A few Words more, and so I conclude.

And First, Take heed that you content not your self with a bare Notion of the Scriptures in your Heads, by which you may go far, even so far, as to be able to dispute for the Truth, to preach the Gospel, and labour to vindicate it in Opposition to Gain-sayers, and yet be found at the left hand of Christ, at the Judgment-day, for as much as thou didst content thy self with a Notion of traditional Knowledge of them.

2. Have a care that thou own the whole Scripture, and not own one Part, & neglect another, or slight it as thus: To own the Law & slight the Gospel; or to think that thou must be sav'd by thy good Doings & Works; for that is all one, as if thou didst thrust Christ away from thee; or else to own the Gospel, as if by it thou wert exempted from all Obedience to the ten Commandments, and Conformity to the Law in Life & Conversation; for in so doing, thou wilt for certain make sure of eternal Vengeance.

3. Have a care that thou put not wrong Names on the Things contained in the Scriptures, as to call the Law Christ, & Christ the Law. For some having done so (in my Knowledge) have so darkned to themselves, the glorious Truths of the Gospel, that in a very little Time, they have been resolv'd to thwart & oppose them, and so have made room in their own Souls for the Devil to inhabit, & obtain a Place in Hell, for their own Souls to be tormented for ever and ever.

Against this Danger, therefore in reading and receiving the Testimony of Scripture, learn to distin-

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distinguish between the Law and the Gospel, and to keep them clear asunder as to the *Salvation of thy Soul*; and that thou mayest so do, in the first Place beg of God, that he would shew thee the Nature of the Gospel, and set it home effectually, with Life & Power upon thy Soul by Faith. Which is this, that God would shew thee that as thou being Man, hast sinned against God; so Christ being God & Man hath bought thee again, and with his most precious Blood, set thee free from the Bondage thou wast fallen into by thy Sins, and that not upon Condition, that thou wilt do thus & thus, this and the other good Work; but rather, that thou being justified freely by meer Grace, thro' the Blood of Jesus, shouldst also receive thy Strength from him, who hath bought thee, to walk before him in all Well-pleasing, being enabled thereto by Virtue of his Spirit, which hath revealed to thy Soul that thou art delivered already from the Wrath to come, by the Obedience, not of thee, but of another Man (*viz.*) Jesus Christ.

Secondly, Then if the Law thou readeest of, tell thee in thy Conscience, thou must do this, and the other good Work of the Law, if ever thou wilt be saved: Answer plainly that for thy part thou art resolved now not to work for Life but to believe in the Virtue of that Blood shed upon the Cross, upon *Calvary*, for the Remission of *Sins*; and yet because Christ hath justified thee freely by his Grace, thou wilt serve him in Holiness and Righteousness all the Days of thy Life, yet not in a legal *Spirit*, or in a Covenant of Works; but mine Obedience (say thou) I will endeavour to have it free and chearful out of Love to my Lord Jesus.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, Have a care thou receive not this Doctrine in the Notion only, lest thou bring a just Damnation upon thy *Soul*, by professing thy self to be free by Christ's Blood, from the Guilt of *Sin*, while thou remainest a *Servant* to the Filth of *Sin*. For I must tell you, that unless you have the true and saving Work of the Faith, and Grace of the Gospel in your Hearts, you will either go on in a legal Holiness, according to the Tenour of the Law: or else thro' a Notion of the Gospel (the Devil bewitching & beguiling thy Understanding, Will & Affections) thou wilt Ranter-like, turn the Grace of God into Wantonness, & bring upon thy *Soul* double, if not treble Damnation in that thou couldst not be contented to be damned for thy *Sins* against the Law, but also to make Ruin, sure to thy *Soul*, thou wouldst dishonour the Gospel, & turn the Grace of God held forth and discovered to Men by that, into Licentiousness.

But that thou mightest be sure to escape these dangerous Rocks on the right hand, & on the left, see that thy Faith be such as is spoken of in the *Scripture*, & that thou be not satisfied without that, which is a Faith wrought by the mighty Operation of God, revealing Christ to & in thee, as having wholly freed thee from thy *Sins* by his most precious Blood: Which Faith, if thou attain unto, will so work in thy Heart, that first thou wilt see the Nature of the Law, & also the Nature of the Gospel & delight in the Glory of it: and also thou wilt find an ingaging of thy Heart & *Soul* to Jesus Christ, even to the giving up of thy whole Man unto him, to be ruled & governed by him to his Glory, and thy Comfort, by the Faith of the Lord Jesus.

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